D 473B (Revised August 1926)

TO BE FORWARDED TO LAST-NAMED DEPARTMENT

N.B.—The addresses are to be written within

SECRET

WAR DIARY

MAY 1st-13th 1940

AND

PAGES OF SUPPLEMENTARY DIARY

(SEPTEMBER 1939 - APRIL 1940)

HISTORICAL SECTION

T.N.S.D ADMIRALTY

SECRET

16.5.1940
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Mining,

Operation B.S.S. — Initial Laying position 52°56' N., 2°56' E. Minelayers PRINCESS VICTORIA and 5 ships of 20th D.F. to be carried out on 18/5 or as soon after as practicable. (DOD (M) 1403/16)

Mines Laid. — British mines have been laid in approx. position 52° 42' N., 04° 10' E. (DDOD (M) 0625/16)

Operation CBX 2 — Owing to observation by enemy A/C during approach, centre field has been laid 286° 16 miles approx. down initial position ordered. (INTREPID, 0436/16)

~~Mines Off Cape. Enemy vessel mines have been found off Cape Agulhas, 100 miles S.E. of Cape of Good Hope. (Cdr-in-C, 2015/16)~~

Aalesund Area. — PORPOISE has laid mines in the Aalesund area. (D.C.N.S., 255)

Mines Exploded. — Two magnetic mines have been exploded in the Humber area and one was trawled at Margate. (D C N S)

Ostend — WHITSHED reports Channel and harbour magnetic mined but sweepts (V/A Dover 1445/16)

THE SITUATION IN THIS AREA, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, WAS CONFUSED AND SERIOUS BUT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ANXIETY. --REUTER

B-2

12.00. FURTHER MEASURES AGAINST ALIENS MAY 16.

THE HOME SECRETARY HAS, AS A FURTHER MEASURE OF PRECAUTION, DIRECTED THE TEMPORARY INTERNMENT THROUGHOUT GREAT BRITAIN OF ALL MALE GERMANS AND AUSTRIANS OVER THE AGE OF 16 AND UNDER THE AGE OF 60 WHOSE CLASSIFICATION AS A RESULT OF EXAMINATION BY A LOCAL TRIBUNAL OR REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS "B"; THAT IS TO SAY WHO, THOUGH EXEMPT HITHERTO FROM INTERNMENT, HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

THE SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS APPLYING TO ENEMY ALIENS IN CATEGORY "B" ARE THAT THEY MUST NOT OWN A MOTOR CAR WITHOUT POLICE PERMISSION, MUST NOT HAVE A CAMERA AND MUST NOT TRAVEL MORE THAN FOUR MILES FROM THEIR HOMES OR CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS

SECRET

16.5.40
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Trawling Area. Additional area available for trawling bounded by (a) Lat. 55°55'N. (b) a line joining St. Abbs Head and Lat. 56°10'N Long 2°03'W. (c) western edge of declared mined area (Admty. 2019/16)

Downs Traffic.

~~NIL.~~ In the event of traffic in the Downs being stopped for any cause, particularly enemy mining, all Guard ships and H.M. Ships will fly the International Signal IL (You should remain where you are). No ship is to get under weigh while this signal is flying unless definite instructions to do so are given by a Boarding Officer.

(D.T.D. 1648/16).

BOTHNIA Report received by Swedish Lloyd that BOTHNIA arrived Lastnight at Kiel. Captain and 10 men who left in a lifeboat are on board. all well.
(B.B.C. Intercept. Motala. 2130/16)

Suspicious fishing vessels Sighted by Italian SS BARBANA 4 in approx. 50°N 11°W (C.C.S.O. Falmouth 1550/16)

SAYING THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS HAD BEEN A PERIOD OF ANXIETY TO THE COMPANY, MR J. CLARK, CHAIRMAN OF MESSRS JM AND P. COATS LTD, ISSUED A WARNING TO SHAREHOLDERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AT GLASGOW TODAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSSES ARISING OUT OF THE WAR.

"WE HAVE SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS IN COMPANIES IN ENEMY AND ENEMY-OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND SIMILAR INTERESTS IN OTHER PARTS OF EUROPE WHICH MIGHT ALSO BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY",

SECRET

16.5.1940
Thursday.

MISCELLANEOUS

WIVERN
Commended.

In returning WIVERN to you to have her honourable scars made good I am returning a ship whose officers and ship's company have in adversity displayed morale of the highest quality. (V.A.,Dover to C.in C., Portsmouth, 1550/16)

Port B. First line of defence is now being laid
(No 1/c Port B 2401/16)

"HOW THE GREAT BATTLE IN THE LOW COUNTRIES MAY FINALLY END, IT IS MUCH TOO EARLY YET TO SAY", THE NEWSPAPER WRITES. "THE ALLIES ARE NOT BEATEN YET. BUT THEY MAY BE.

"ALREADY THIS VAST ENORMITY IN HOLLAND AND BELGIUM HAS BLASTED TWO TREMENDOUS FACTS INTO AMERICAN CONSCIOUSNESS WITH A VIVIDNESS AND IMMEDIACY NOT ACHIEVED BY ALL THE GHASTLINESS OF THE LAST MONTHS AND YEARS". --REUTER

CH-1

11.17. BREAD PRICE INCREASE MAY 16.

THE LONDON JOINT BREAD PRICE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT WHERE THE ONE LB. LOAF IS BEING SOLD AT TWOPENCE FARTHING IT BE INCREASED TO TWOPENCE HALFENNY ON OR AFTER MAY 20. --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS. 16.5.40
Thursday.

SECRET

Enemy Intelligence

Transport (attached by CLYDE 14/5) Nothing further seen.
Left patrol off Standard (CLYDE 0352/16)

SEALION. Patrol report 4th to 9th May. On 6th May, on Skaw-Oslo route, fired six torpedoes at two southbound M.V.'s, one of which believed REICHENFELS. Seven minutes later torpedo detonated, 40 seconds later second torpedo detonated, third torpedo heard to detonate some time later. Convoy subsequently observed in disorder apparently stopped. Slight list on one transport. Much indiscriminate depth-charging. May 7 to 9, nothing seen except patrols. (V.A.S., 1831/16)

3 transports 3 large transports reported at 1948 in position 051° 44' North 002° 40' East course 230 speed 15 knots. Patrol in vicinity North Goodwin Falls Bank to intercept.

V.A. Dover 2310/16

KEITH, VERITY, VENOMOUS.)

LESSON FOR ALL THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES WHO ARE GERMANY'S NEIGHBOURS!".

THIS WAS THE FAREWELL MESSAGE WHICH A LEADING PERSONALITY IN HOLLAND GAVE TO A HAVAS CORRESPONDENT IN THE MIDST OF THE EVACUATION OF THE HAGUE.

"WE PERMITTED GERMANY TO IMPOSE HER CONCEPTION OF NEUTRALITY UPON US", THIS INFORMANT CONTINUED, "AND SO WHEN SHE DECIDED TO ATTACK US, ALL OUR NEUTRAL SCRUPLES REBOUNDED TO OUR DISADVANTAGE.

"IN ORDER NOT TO 'PROVOKE' THE GERMANS OUR GENERAL STAFF STRICTLY REFRAINED FROM ANY CONTACT WITH THE STAFFS OF THE ALLIES WHO WERE IN A POSITION TO HELP US.

(THE AUTHENTICITY OF THIS STATEMENT, ADDS THE HAVAS CORRESPONDENT, HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE FRENCH MINISTER AT THE HAGUE, BARON DE VITROLLES, WHO HAS NOW REACHED LONDON).

"NEVERTHELESS", THIS DUTCH INFORMANT CONTINUES, "THE GERMANS PROFESSED TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF OUR ATTITUDE AND WHILE THE ALLIES WERE THUS DEPRIVED OF THE MOST ELEMENTARY INFORMATION, THE GERMANS MAINTAINED IN OUR MIDST HORDES OF SPIES AND SECRET AGENTS WHO DELIVERED UP THE SECRETS OF OUR NATIONAL DEFENCE.

"AT THE HAGUE, WE WERE SOMETIMES TOO TEMPTED TO BUY A LITTLE PEACE AT THE PRICE OF FRESH CONCESSIONS.

HOME COMMANDS.

SECRET

16.5.40
Thursday.

North Atlantic.

ASTURIAS
PATROCLUS
CARINTHIA
CHESHIRE
DERBYSHIRE

Proceed direct to patrol area.
Cancel my 0002/16 (C-C W A 1033/16)

French ports

1200/16 (DC 0200/16)

Capture of Danish ships

Your 1530/16 ~~to Admiralty repeated C.O.(I) Gibraltar~~ it can be arranged that ships are captured by French patrol and sent to Gibraltar. Request you inform me of details of ships and times of sailing. (FOCNA 2336/16 ~~to Admy.~~)

~~C-in-C~~ Your 2017 request instructions regarding Polish and other allied ships.

(FOCNA 1116/16)

No British and Norwegian Merchant ships to be sailed Eastbound from Gibraltar at present

"HAVING SACRIFICED THE VITAL CONTACT WITH OUR NATURAL FRIENDS ABROAD BY DECLINING ANY STAFF CONSULTATIONS - EVEN WITH THE BELGIANS - WE THE HAD TO SACRIFICE OUR LIBERTY OF ACTION AGAINST THE ENEMIES WITHIN - THE DUTCH NAZIS WHO WERE PROTECTED BY BERLIN.

"IN OUR DESIRE TO BE ABSOLUTELY UNPROVOCATIVE, WE EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO ALLOW THE DUTCH NAZIS TO GET TOGETHER WITH THE GERMAN NAZIS AND FORM THE FIFTH COLUMN WHOSE ACTIVITIES YOU CAN SEE TODAY.

"WE SEE THE RESULT BEFORE US TODAY", HE CONCLUDED. "LET ALL THE OTHER NEUTRALS REMEMBER IT!". --REUTER

CH-1

HOME COMMANDS. 16.5.40
Thursday

SECRET

WEATHER.

0500

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	E or SE, mod or fresh	Mod or good	Similar
Channel (East)	variable, light	Poor	Wind becoming N, visibility improving.
Channel (West) & S. Approaches	NNW, fresh.	Good	Similar.
Hornes Reef, S. Norway	ESE fresh or strong	Good	Similar
W. coast Norway	S. mod or fresh	Good	Similar
Dutch coast	E. fresh.	Mod or moderate or good	Wind becoming variable.

16.35 ADD 12.55 - HUNGARY REPORTED INCREASING HER ARMY

IT IS OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED IN BUDAPEST, SAYS A HAVAS AGENCY REPORT, THAT SEVERAL CLASSES OF RESERVISTS MOSTLY MEN BORN IN UPPER HUNGARY HAVE BEEN CALLED UP FOR MANOEUVRES IN NORTH HUNGARY, USUALLY HELD AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. IT IS STATED THAT THERE IS NO CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS PROPERLY SO CALLED. -REUTER

B-2

16.37 COMMONS : NEW GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESSFUL DEBUT. MAY 13

THE GOVERNMENT MOTION WAS CARRIED BY 381 AGAINST NIL.

MR MAXTON AND MR STEPHEN HAVING TO ACT AS TELLERS FOR THE "NOES" COULD NOT VOTE IN THE LOBBY. THEY HAD NO SUPPORTERS.

SECRET

16.5.40
Thursday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS
Home Comds.

HUSSAR M/s. Damaged by mine (FO i/c Harwich 0654/16)

TAKU. Defects as result of d/c's 8/5 (S2 1207/15)

WESTMINSTER Damaged in collision with wreck in Dunkirk W. approach Channel. Forward boiler room flooded, port propeller shaft damaged, W/T ant[enna] carried away. Towed to Dunkirk by tug 0430/16 and dry docked (BNLO Dunkirk 1070/16)

PANAGHIOTIS TH. KOUMANTAROS Making water past listing heavily off Zeebrugge (N. Foreland Radio 0934/16) Crew 36, many W., 4 refugees (~~Calais~~ Sailed W/T 0525/16)

U

NN.59 ADD 15.51 "ITALY WILL NOT BE TAKEN BY SURPRISE"

FROM SEPTEMBER TO APRIL, SAID SIGNOR HOST VENTURI, 2,449 VESSELS HAD EITHER BEEN STOPPED OR DIVERTED FROM THEIR ROUTE. FIFTEEN THOUSAND MAIL BAGS HAD BEEN TAKEN OFF, AS WELL AS 759 PASSENGERS, 32,000 TONS OF GOODS AND 20,000 PARC LS.

THE MINISTER THEN SPOKE OF THE NEW BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR THE MERCANTILE MARINE, OF WHICH 40,000 TONS HAD BEEN LAID DOWN. HE PRAISED THE ATTITUDE OF ITALIAN SAILORS WHO DID NOT HESITATE TO BRAVE THE DANGERS OF THE NORTHERN SEAS. SEVEN ITALIAN STEAM VESSELS HAD BEEN SUNK AND 74 OF THE CREWS HAD BEEN

SECRET

16.5.1940
Thursday.
L_.£.%(@?

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. +

PENELOPE — arrived with ACASTA, ESCORT and tug BANDIT. (F.O., Eyemouth, 2305/16).

ESKIMO — Work on ESKIMO held up until receipt of oxygen, acetylene, etc. (VINDICTIVE, 1100/16)

WESTMINSTER — Damaged in collision with wreck off Dunkerque west approach channel. No casualties. (B.N.L.O., Dunkirk 1020/16)

SOMALI — If condition permits, to proceed Liverpool with FOUDROYANT in company. CURLEW to part company at Cape Wrath and proceed Scapa. (C-in-C HF 2224/16)

~~My~~ position ~~at~~ 2000 C X W S 1808 course 205~ 11 knots. ~~H.M.S.~~ CURLEW and ~~French Destroyer~~ FOUDROYANT in company. Damage has not increased and ship is steaming comfortably. Tug BRIGAND not required ~~(etc.) render aid in present circumstances~~ so have ordered her to return to base. In view of her previous orders am now instructing H.M.S. CURLEW to proceed to Scapa also.
(Capt(D)6 2150/16)

11.29. "SILVER BONDS" AS DUTCH CURRENCY MAY 16.

THE DUTCH MINISTER OF FINANCE ANNOUNCED ON THE GERMAN-CONTROLLED HILVERSUM WIRELESS TODAY THAT "SILVER BONDS" TO THE VALUE OF 1 GUILDER AND 2.50 GUILDERS WILL BE BROUGHT INTO CIRCULATION AS A NEW LEGAL TENDER TODAY.

THE EQUIVALENT SILVER COINS WILL REMAIN VALID UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. --REUTER

CH-1

11.31. BRITISH AND CANADIAN STUDENTS LEAVE ROME

.....R O M E, MAY 16.....THE STUDENTS OF THE SCOTCH, ENGLISH, AND CANADIAN COLLEGES IN ROME LEFT THIS MORNING FOR HOME. ONLY A MAINTENANCE STAFF REMAINDED. --REUTER

CH-2

SECRET

16.5.1940
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Patrols. French patrol up to 40 miles off Spanish and Portuguese Coast. French dragueur ELAN between 41° N. and 41° 30' N., sloop COMMANDANTE DUBOC between 42° 30' N. and 315° from Corunna. Sloop CHEVREUIL between 315° from Corunna and long. 07° W. Auxiliary patrol vessel MEDOC and aircraft E. of 07° W. Patrol vessel CAPRICORNE on patrol off Rio Tagus. Patrol vessel TERRE-NEUVE on patrol off Cape St. Vincent. Patrol vessels BISON and LAITA on patrol from Huelva to Cadiz. (FOCNA 2258/16 to 5 AMC's on patrol)

Las Palmas, air bombs. Known that 25 tons of war explosives and 250 aerial bombs of 250 kilos each landed here yesterday Wednesday. (NCSO Las Palmas 1150/16)

Ocean Convoys &c. Portugal (DC 1855/16)

Danish Ships. Re negotiations to capture them just outside Lisbon (NCSO Lisbon 1530/16)

COUNTRY."

IN BELGRADE TODAY THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CONFERENCES AMONG LEADING MINISTERS. ONE THIS MORNING WAS PRESIDED OVER BY THE PRIME MINISTER, M. STEVTKOVITCH. THIS AFTERNOON THE VICE-PREMIER, M. MACEK, LEADER OF THE CROAT PEASANT PARTY, CALLED UPON THE WAR MINISTER, GENERAL NEDIC, AND THEY WERE CLOSETED TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME.

NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT WAS ISSUED TONIGHT ON THESE MINISTERIAL TALKS. --REUTER.

S-1

11.57 ADD 11.50 - GERMAN ATTACKS REPULSED

ENEMY ATTACKS NORTH OF NAMUR HAD BEEN REPULSED, HE SAID. OF THE SITUATION EAST OF SEDAN THERE WAS LITTLE TO REPORT.

AS TO THE FRONT BETWEEN NAMUR AND SEDAN, TODAY'S COMMUNIQUE ENJOINED THE WATCHWORD OF SILENCE ON THE WHOLE NATION.

SECRET

16.5.1940
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DUNVEGAN CASTLE — Torches escort to Convoy SL 32. Route. (C-in-C SA., 1221/16)

Italian Warships. — Requesting information of whereabouts of any Italian warships and submarines known to be outside Mediterranean (C-in-C SA., 0857/16)

Enemy Mines. — Enemy moored mines were found off Cape Agulhas, 36°50' S., 20°00' E., on 15/5. (OOIC., 2015/16)

Possible Raider. — It is likely that an armed merchant raider may be abroad in the South Atlantic or Indian Ocean. The British ship SCIENTIST, which left Durban on 27/4, is overdue at Freetown, where she should have arrived on 10/5. (I.C., 0453/40)

THAT THE NEW PHASE OF EVENTS

S-2 --REUTER.

12.36. ALLIED PUSH TOWARDS NARVIK

.....P A R I S, MAY 16.....THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE GERMANS AND THE ALLIED FORCES FOR POSSESSION OF NARVIK SEEMS LIKELY TO REACH A CULMINATION IN FAVOUR OF THE ALLIES IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

BOMBING ATTACKS BY ALLIED AIRCRAFT AND THE SHELLING OF THE TOWN BY THEIR WARSHIPS ARE GIVING CONSIDERABLE IMPETUS TO THE ADVANCE ON NARVIK.

GERMAN PLANES ARE DROPPING QUANTITIES OF AMMUNITION AND FOOD BY MEANS OF PARACHUTE, BUT THESE ARE UNLIKELY TO BE SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW THE DEFENDING GERMANS TO WITHSTAND A PROLONGED ATTACK.

CH-1 --REUTER

SECRET

16.5.1940
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Depot-Ship. Reinforcements of Med. Fleet Destroyer Hotelier make presence of a destroyer depot ship at Alexandria very necessary. (C in C Med., 1813/16)

GRIMSBY To sail for Med. as soon as possible instead of EGRET. (O.O.B. (H), 1556/16)

Italian Mine-Layer. Cruiser not clearly identified but probably TARANTO seen in inner Brindisi Harbour 15/5 loading mines (C.2). Net defence and boom vessel reported at entrance to harbour. (N.A., Rome, 1737/16)

REX
CONTE DI SAVOIA } not to be interfered with. If they call voluntarily at Gibraltar to be allowed to proceed without communication. (OOD (H) 2120/16)

Searched Channels. Admty 1857/3. It is not desired to establish any secret searched channels for warships in Mediterranean until minesweeping force is increased. (C in C Med, 1425/16)

Italy - Istanbul Sailings. Admty 1834/15, report of suspension of sailings to Istanbul by Adriatica Line. No confirmation and at present no indication. (A.N.A., Istanbul, 1246/16)

Instructions to Shipping. My 0045/8. Instructions contained in first sentence are cancelled. Ships from West Coast of India and Persian Gulf bound through the Mediterranean are to be routed via Cape of Good Hope. (C in C., 1622/16)

PARIS, MAY 16: A MILITARY SPOKESMAN SAID THIS MORNING THAT ALL ATTEMPTS BY THE GERMANS TO DEBOUCH FROM SEDAN WERE REPULSED YESTERDAY AND THE GERMANS WERE BEING HELD IN CHECK AT SEDAN.

B-2 --REUTER

11.51 GILT EDGED IMPROVE A LITTLE. MAY 16.

A BRIGHTER ATMOSPHERE IS EVIDENT THIS MORNING, BUT THERE IS A TENDENCY TO TAKE STOCK OF THE GENERAL SITUATION BEFORE EMBARKING ON ANY REAL ACTIVE BUSINESS.

GILT EDGED ARE BETWEEN 1/16 AND 1/8 HIGHER AND THE KAFFIR MARKET AFTER SOME EARLIER HESITATION SHOWS SOME SIGNS OF HARDENING.

INDUSTRIAL MOVEMENTS SELDOM EXCEED A FEW PENCE EITHER WAY, THOUGH TOBACCOS AND TEXTILES DISPLAY SOME HEAVINESS.

AN EARLY IMPROVEMENT IN HOME RAILS HAS NOT BEEN HELD, BUT THE FOREIGN MARKET IS STEADY, EXCEPT FOR A FURTHER FIVE POINT DECLINE IN SUEZ CANAL TO 65. --REUTER

SECRET

16.5.40
Thurzday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

CALEDON and CAPETOWN — At sea eastern Mediterranean positions unknown.

RORQUAL — 33°N. 28°E. to Malta

(D.C. to B.N.L.O. Marseau 0731/16)

Shipping Diverted. — Until further orders no British or Norwegian merchant ships are to be sailed eastbound from Gibraltar, or westbound from Port Said, Alexandria, Haifa or Cyprus. (A.C.N.S., 2016/16, 2017/16)

Reinforcements

~~111~~ Your 1951/15

Intend to sail Group 1 about 200 [illegible] ...ting ...ay less EGRET at 1630 today Thursday.

Probable date of completion of EG [illegible] be stated at present.

(C.C.W.A 1243/16.)

HE ADDED. --REUTER.

S-1

16.08 SWEDISH BANK RATE RAISED.

STOCKHOLM, MAY 16: SWEDISH BANK RATE WILL BE RAISED

FROM THREE TO THREE AND A HALF PER CENT AS FROM TOMORROW.

B-2 --REUTER

''' '''

FOREIGN STATION 16.5.40 Thursday

SECRET

America & West Indies

Acting for A/C's — Governor apprehensive of air raids or raids by sea by small parties of Germans from Venezuela. Recommend one flight fighter A/C's based Hato air port Curacao. Request detachment A/A and S/L ~~to~~ now at Bermuda be sent here earliest opportunity (Willemstad 0156/16)

Convoy HX 43 — Sailed from Halifax 16 May (Canadian S.O. (I) Halifax 1325/16)

DIOMEDE — Req 0222/12. Request date by which DIOMEDE is required at Halifax to escort troop transports to Jamaica. (C-in-C W.I. 1320/16)

17.55.

SECOND ADD...HEAVY DUTCH CASUALTIES (17.12)...

"I MUST INSIST ON THIS - NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT NOR THE COUNTRY HAS CAPITULATED", M. VAN KLEFFENS DECLARED.

CH-1 REUTER

18.03. DUTCH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S ORDER OF DAY MAY 15.

THE FOLLOWING ORDER OF THE DAY ISSUED BY GENERAL WINKELMAN, THE DUTCH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, WAS BROADCAST FROM HILVERSUM

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS.
China.

~~16~~ 15
~~14~~.5.1940
~~Tuesday.~~
Thursday ~~Wednesday~~

Mischievous Reports.

Examples of reports made by ill-disposed persons to cause uneasiness and compromise our position with third Powers. Every effort should be made to trace and discredit such reports. (C in C China, & CO1S, Singapore, 0205/16)

.....SANTA MONICA, CALIF., FEB 28.....THE BRITISH PURCHASING COMMISSION HAS ORDERED 20,000,000 DOLLARS WORTH OF ATTACK BOMBING PLANES FROM THE DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT CORPORATION.

THIS WAS REVEALED HERE BY MR. DONALD DOUGLA , PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION.

THE CONTRACT, HE SAID, REQUIRES THAT DELIVERIES SHALL BE COMPLETED BY THE LATE SUMMER OF 1941. THE PLANES WILL BE ALL-METAL, TWIN-ENGINED HIGHWING MONOPLANES, SIMILAR TO THOSE ALREADY ORDERED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

"THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN PURCHASES YET MADE HERE", MR. DOUGLAS COMMENTED.

"IT WILL PROVIDE 5,000,000 ADDITIONAL HOURS OF LABOUR IN THE SANTA MONICA FACTORY, WHERE 12,000 OUT OF THE 15,000 EMPLOYEES ARE ALREADY WORKING THE THREE SHIFTS DAILY".

CH-1 REUTER

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia.

16.5.40
Thursday

SECRET

~~Australian Troop~~
Convoy U.S.3.

In view of possible holding up of X5 and X6 Cape Town owing Asiatic crew trouble suggest ORCADES due Colombo homeward bound 17 May and STRATHNAVER British due Aden homeward bound 17 May be diverted to Cape Town to replace X5 and X6 for onward passage to U.K. Convoy due Cape Town 26th May. (Australian Commonwealth Naval Board to Adty. 0901/16)

SHROPSHIRE and AUSTRALIA to escort Convoy from rendezvous "A" to Capetown and SHROPSHIRE and CUMBERLAND from Capetown to Freetown (C.in C S. Atlantic 0550/16)

AS ANY THREAT TO PEACE".

THE TWO ARMY CORPS CONCERNED - THE SZEKES-FEHERVAR AND KASSA - ARE RECRUITED, IT IS POINTED OUT, TO THE EXTENT OF 50 PER CENT AND 70 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY FROM THE TERRITORIES RECENTLY INCORPORATED IN HUNGARY, WHOSE INHABITANTS HAVE NOT YET DONE THEIR SERVICE IN THE HUNGARIAN ARMY.

THE MOBILISATION, IT IS STATED, IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAINING THESE ELEMENTS. FOR THE SAME REASON A FEW MOTORISED BRIGADES AND CAVALRY BRIGADES HAVE ALSO BEEN MOBILISED.

THE MOBILISED CORPS HAVE NOT BEEN SENT TO ANY FRONTIER.

CH-1 --REUTER

19.03. GRIM WARNING TO ALL NEUTRALS

.....P A R I S, MAY 15....."MAY OUR EXPERIENCE SERVE AS A LESSON FOR

SECRET

16.5.1940
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Manning New Ships.

Admlty 1900/40. proposal to man new ships with Australians. Commonwealth Govt. agree in principle to these proposals and request details be arranged between Naval Control Service staff and Commonwealth Naval Board. C.N.B. are glad to get such satisfactory reports of Australian personnel and welcome opportunity for further co-operation in home waters. (A.C.N.B., 0759/16).

14.56 ADD 14.45 - MESSAGE FROM ROOSEVELT

IT IS CONFIRMED IN ITALIAN QUARTERS THAT PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT HAS SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE DUCE THROUGH COUNT CIANO.

IT IS LEARNED THAT THE MESSAGE WAS HANDED TO MUSSOLINI YESTERDAY. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ABOUT ITS CONTENTS.

B-2 --REUTER

SECRET

16.5.1940
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

STEINBERG — 1319 BT. ordered by W/T at 0552/16 to enquire at Scatter Pilot Station, Great Belt, for convoy through Great Belt. (IC, 0452/40)

WILHELM A. RICKMANN — Timber 10,376 GT, informed Tallinn she would arrive 2200/16. (IC, 0452/40)

RHEINLAND — 2570 GT, informed at 0953/15 her port of discharge was Lubeck. (IC, 0452/40)

REICHENFELS — ~~S/M~~ Submarine SEALION reports that on 6/5 she fired 6 torpedoes at two southbound M.V.'s, one believed to be REICHENFELS. 3 detonations heard and one transport observed to have a slightlist. (D C N S)

America and West Indies.

RHAKOTIS — Reported (A.I) about to sail at 2300 GMT today 16/5 for Hamburg. (SO I, Callao, 1429/16) Sailed at 2350 GMT cleared for Hamburg but probably sailing for Vladivostock with additional engineers other German ships at Callao. W/T installation has been removed (Sec(I) Callao 1859/16)

TWO MORE PLANES WERE BROUGHT DOWN BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE.

DURING ATTACKS ON ENEMY BASES NUMEROUS PLANES WERE DESTROYED ON THE GROUND.

"THE TOTAL LOSSES OF THE ENEMY ON MAY 15 AMOUNT TO 98 PLANES.

"EIGHTEEN OF OUR OWN PLANES WERE LOST.

CH-1 SEE --3-- REUTER

13.10. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION NOTICE MAY 16.

THE GERMAN WIRELESS HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED TO DUTCH LISTENERS THAT THE PANIC AND FEAR OF INVASION IS SO GREAT BOTH IN BRITAIN AND IN FRANCE THAT THE KING OF ENGLAND AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ARE PREPARING TO LEAVE FOR CANADA.

THE PUBLIC BOTH IN BRITAIN AND FRANCE WILL KNOW HOW FANTASTIC ARE BOTH THESE STATEMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY SHOULD TAKE MENTAL NOTE THAT STORIES OF THIS KIND - THAT IS TO UNDERMINE CONFIDENCE - ARE IN THE NEXT WEEKS BOUND TO BE LAUNCHED IN GREATER VOLUME EVEN THAN HITHERTO BY THE GERMAN PROPAGANDA

SECRET

16.5.40
Thursday.
~~14.5.1940~~
~~Tuesday.~~

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/M's Attacked.

2138 By A/C 53. ~~48'~~ N., 05.50' E., off Terschelling, unsuccessful. (I.C., 0453/40)

0930 By A/C, 220 Sqdn., 56°5' N., 4°28' E., result not known. (A/C 0930/16) (I.C., 0452/40)

~~1000~~ 1600 A/C reported when off North Rona (Skye) she saw a destroyer circling round an extensive oil patch. The destroyer, ATHERSTONE, signalled that she considered the submarine was on the bottom and had been destroyed. ~~(D C N S, 256)~~ (Dunbristle 1810/16)

1158 By H M S ATHERSTONE, 59.05' N., 05.56' W., 320° N. Rona 4'. Presenceof U/B doubtful. (I.C., 0453/40)

(~~A Norwegian~~ The wreck of a Norwegian merchant ship ~~has~~ in the above position has been attacked 3 times previously in mistake for a U-boat)

.42 FINNISH COMMUNIQUE.

LSINKI, FEB 26: TODAY'S FINNISH COMMUNIQUE STATES:

"LAND: ON THE ISTHMUS OUR TROOPS HAVE GIVEN UP THE KOIVISTO
LANDS.

"ON FEBRUARY 25 THE ENEMY CONTINUED HIS ATTACKS ON THE
STERN PART OF THE ISTHMUS. THE ATTACKS WERE CHECKED BY FIRE FROM
R ARTILLERY AND INFANTRY AND THE ENEMY SUFFERED HEAVY LOSS IN
N. AT SALMENKAITA ENEMY ATTACKS WERE REPULSED AFTER FIGHTING
ICH LASTED THE WHOLE DAY.

"SEVERAL TANKS WERE DESTROYED.

"ON THE EASTERN PART OF THE ISTHMUS THE DAY PASSED QUIETLY.

"NORTH EAST OF LAKE LADOGA THE DAY PASSED QUIETLY WITH THE
CEPTION OF LIVELY ARTILLERY ACTIVITY. AN ENEMY BATTERY
AS SILENCED AND SEVERAL OF THEIR ISOLATED DETACHMENTS WERE
NNIHILATED.

-2 SEE 2.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

16
8.5.1940
~~Sunday.~~
Thursday.

SECRET

Ships Attacked.

HAGA
~~OLIVE~~

Swedish, mined or torpedoed to the westward of entrance to Skagerrak at 1500/16. Four of crew lost, 12 rescued by enemy submarine. (DCNS) (Gothenburg, 1503/16)

GERMAN GOVERNMENT STATED ON APRIL 26 THAT IT WAS AT WAR WITH NORWAY.

"THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN AWARE OF THIS STATE OF WAR SINCE THE NIGHT OF APRIL 8-9, WHEN THE REICH WITHOUT MAKING A DECLARATION OF WAR LAUNCHED ITS ONSLAUGHT AGAINST US.

"THIS ONSLAUGHT MUST HAVE BEEN PREPARED A LONG TIME IN ADVANCE, SINCE THE GERMAN FORCES INVADED NORWAY SIMULTANEOUSLY AT MANY POINTS FROM OSLO TO NARVIK.

"OUR ATTACKERS ACTED CONTRARY TO ALL THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT NORWAY HAD NOT COMMITTED THE SLIGHTEST ACT WHICH COULD SERVE AS EXCUSE FOR AN ACT OF VIOLENCE.

"THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT IS FROM ITS OWN EXPERIENCE CONVINCED THAT IF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT NOW STATES THAT IT IS AT WAR WITH NORWAY, GERMANY WILL NOT FOR THAT REASON CONDUCT THE WAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.

"THE NORWEGIAN NATION HAS NOT ALLOWED ITSELF TO BE TERRORISED BY BOMBING AND OTHER FORMS OF DEVASTATION.

"IT CONSIDERS LIBERTY SO VALUABLE THAT IT PREFERS TO SUFFER WAR RATHER THAN TO BOW TO GERMAN TYRANNY.

"THE

SITUATION REPORT. 17.5.40
Friday

SECRET

Home.

Mining. Mines are still being cut and detonated in the Tyne area, and also in the Yarmouth area and a magnetic mine in the Forth.

The minefields in Dover Straits and off the East coasts are ~~[illegible]~~ strengthened.

Operation RH was continued last night.

New cruisers FIJI and BONAVENTURE are now in commission.

C12.36 LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE MAY 13.

MR ATTLEE, SPEAKING AT THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE AT BOURNEMOUTH TODAY, SAID: "THIS IS A MOST TREMENDOUS MOMENT. EVERYTHING IS AT STAKE. I HAVE NO TIME FOR PEOPLE WHO TALK CLAP-TRAP ABOUT AN IMPERIALIST WAR AND SO ON. YOU HAVE GOT TO FACE THE ISSUE.

"WE REALISED THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF AN APPEAL TO THE ELECTORS. THERE MUST BE A GOVERNMENT THAT CAN CARRY ON. WE BELIEVED THE COUNTRY WANTED A NEW GOVERNMENT.

"LABOUR GOES INTO THE GOVERNMENT ONLY WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE MOVEMENT. WE HAVE MADE THAT CLEAR. WE ASK THIS MORNING FOR A MANDATE FROM THE CONFERENCE. I BELIEVE WE ARE GETTING A GOVERNMENT THAT CAN RALLY THE FORCES OF THE NATION. I AM ASKING LABOUR TO STAND FIRMLY TOGETHER - BOTH POLITICALLY AND

SITUATION REPORT

17.5.40
Friday

SECRET

Foreign Stations.

Raider. ~~Fleet~~ It is possible that a raider is at large. On 2/5 SS CITY OF EXETER sighted a suspicious vessel in the South Atlantic. ~~SS BEACONSFIELD and~~ SS SCIENTIST ~~is~~ overdue; and mines were ~~laid by~~ found 15/5 off Cape Agulhas. The German wireless stated (18/5) that these mines were laid by units of the German Navy.

Italian Situation

~~Mediterranean~~ With small exception Italian merchant shipping programmes remain normal. Loadings of Italian tankers in Mexico continue according to programme. The REX, inward bound from New York did not call ~~at Gibraltar~~ at Gibraltar 17/5. CONTE DI SAVOIA (48,502 tons) outward bound for New York called at Gibraltar Voluntarily but was not subjected to control.

No more British ~~ships~~ or Norwegian ships are being routed through ~~allowed to enter~~ the Mediterranean at present. The civil populations of Aden and Gibraltar are to be evacuated forthwith.

On 4/5 ~~an old type~~ tanker was sighted in the South Atlantic. The German tankers, WINNETOU ~~and~~ ~~RUDOLF ACBRECHT~~ has been ~~reported~~ missporter since 9/5 ~~and 8/5 respectively~~.

It would have been possible for the ship sighted 2/5 to have sunk the SCIENTIST and also to have laid the mines off Cape Agulhas.

M-2

12.23 SOUTH AFRICAN REGIMENT CALLED UP.

CAPTOWN, MAY 13: IT IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT MEN OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S OWN RIFLES - A CAPETOWN TERRITORIAL REGIMENT - WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR SERVICE ANYWHERE IS AFRICA HAVE BEEN CALLED UP FOR FULL-TIME SERVICE.

THEY ARE GOING TO THE TRANSVAAL FOR TRAINING. --REUTER.

S-1

SITUATION REPORT 17.5.40
Friday.

SECRET

Low Countries.

Flushing. Demolitions by the Naval party under Comdr. Cazalet commenced 1730/17.

Five refugee ships left Ostend 1600/17. There is no further news of them yet.

YKBQRMQO PARLIAMENT TODAY MAY 13.

THE COMMONS MEET AT 2.45 TODAY AND THE LORDS AT THREE O'CLOCK.

IN THE COMMONS THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MOVE "THAT THIS HOUSE WELCOMES THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTING THE UNITED AND INFLEXIBLE RESOLVE OF THE NATION TO PROSECUTE THE WAR WITH GERMANY TO A VICTORIOUS CONCLUSION."

UNOFFICIAL SPOKESMEN OF THE LABOUR AND LIBERAL PARTIES WILL SPEAK, AFTER WHICH THE HOUSE IS EXPECTED TO ADJOURN FOR A WEEK.

IN THE LORDS AT THREE O'CLOCK A SIMILAR MOTION WILL BE MADE AND SIMILAR SPEECHES DELIVERED. --REUTER

M-2

SITUATION REPORT. 17.5.40
Friday

SECRET

Norway.

Casualties EFFINGHAM grounded at 1750/17 and was badly holed ~~EC110~~ and is a total loss.

RESOLUTION hit by a bomb and slightly damaged.

MATABELE, which was with EFFINGHAM was also slightly damaged and returned to Harstad with COVENTRY and CAIRO, EFFINGHAM's ship's company and all military.

Convoy attacked. 3 Hudson a/c's carried out a bombing attack on a convoy of 7 ships with destroyer escort at 0715/17, 60 miles West of Lister. There were several near misses, and one of the convoy was seen ~~the~~ listing heavily and emitting steam. There was no opposition from enemy a/c's.

Air raid on Stavanger A successful air raid was carried out at ~~H~~0145/17 on Stavanger Aerodrome, one hangar and runways being damaged.

W/T intercepts showed that 2 groups of enemy a/c's, estimated to number 30 a/c's, were operating off the Norwegian coast at 1900/17, flying towards Narvik.

Iceland.

The troop convoy arrived at Reykjavik 1200/17. Disembarkation began at 1700.

Casualty GUARDIAN, laying nets on the coast grounded on an uncharted rock 16/5. She is still able to proceed, but will require to return to UK. for ~~docking~~ immediate docking.

12.55. HUNGARY REPORTED INCREASING HER ARMY

.....PARIS, MAY 13.....IMPORTANT MILITARY MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN IN HUNGARY, ACCORDING TO A HAVAS AGENCY DISPATCH FROM BELGRADE TODAY.

INFORMATION PASSING THE FRONTIER INDICATES THAT SEVEN CLASSES WERE RECALLED TO THE COLOURS ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. IF THIS IS SO, THE DISPATCH POINTS OUT, THE HUNGARIAN ARMY WOULD NOW HAVE 350,000 MEN UNDER ARMS AGAINST 150,000 THREE DAYS AGO.

MOST OF THE TROOPS, THE DISPATCH ADDS, ARE CONCENTRATED ALONG THE SLOVAKIAN AND RUMANIAN FRONTIERS AND IN THE REGION OF SZEGED, THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE YUGOSLAV-HUNGARIAN FRONTIER. --REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

SITUATION REPORT 17.5.1940
Friday

Enemy Air Activity.

Activity by enemy a/c in all areas was less than normal today.

Tramsport aircraft were busy throughout the day and reports were received showing flights Jever/Stavanger, Trondheim/Oldenburg, with intermediate refuelling at Aalborg, and Aalborg/Uterson. At 1730, one aircraft announced that he had carried out his task and was flying to Gardermoen, the first instance in which an aircraft of this type had been reported landing in that area (Oslo).

Norwegian activity was very much less, although messages from enemy aircraftmay relate to a bombing incident in the Narvik area.

The meteorological flight wasout as usual, the area of observation being thenorth central area of the North Sea, this activity was first heard at 0700 hours.

18.57 GERMANS REPORTED IN POSSESSION OF LUXEMBURG.

WASHINGTON, MAY 10: MR CUDAHY, THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS, HAS INFORMED THE STATE DEPARTMENT HERE THAT THE GERMANS HAVE OVER-RUN THE WHOLE OF LUXEMBURG AND THE LIMBURG PROVINCE OF HOLLAND. --REUTER

B-2

SECRET

SITUATION REPORT+

18.5.1940
Saturday.

Channel and Low Countries.

Antwerp demolitions. Report of demolitions at Antwerp shows that all dry docks and heavy cranes and about 150,000 tons of petrol and oil have been destroyed; and that one lock has been blocked.

Offensive air activity on the Dutch and Belgian coasts showed signs of increasing during the day, and Enemy a/c were active in the Straits of Dover area. ~~and on the North French coast~~

~~A/C~~ Observers report the dropping of parachute mines in the Downs. ~~Dover~~ Dunkirk was severely bombed about 2230 and parts of the town set on fire; Dieppe was attacked at the ~~same~~ time ~~as Dunkirk~~, and it is suspected that magnetic mines have been dropped in the harbour entrance. The port is closed.

~~The~~ PRINCESS VICTORIA was mined and sunk ~~off~~ the Humber 2330/18. Survivors number 12 officers and 79 ratings. The PRINCESS VICTORIA was returning from laying mines in the East Coast Barrier, some 40 miles East of Cromer.

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH.

MR. FRASER, NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER, MAKES THIS STATEMENT IN A REPLY TODAY TO A MESSAGE FROM MR. CHURCHILL.

MR. FRASER DECLARES THAT THE FULLEST COOPERATION WILL BE GIVEN BY THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE - EUROPEAN AND MAORI ALIKE.

NEW ZEALAND WILL ALSO GIVE ITS WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT, HE SAYS, TO ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO BRING THE STRUGGLE TO AN EARLY SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

WE CAN RELY, HE ADDS, "ON OUR EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN AS THEY ARE BY OUR OWN FREE WILL TO RELEASE OURSELVES AND THE WORLD FOR ALL TIME FROM THE THREAT OF DOMINATION BY BRUTAL FORCE".

CH-1 REUTER

SECRET

17. 5. 40
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

RIVER CLYDE. Nineteen neutral ships searched by Customs last night with quite satisfactory results (F.O. Glasgow to Adty. 1044/17)

~~SHEERNESS. Request for information as to procedure for ticket mustering and for persons not using tickets. (Cdre. i/c Sheerness to Adty 2327/17)~~

CLYDE In view of possibility of neutral ships entering Clyde with intention of sinking themselves in channel or landing troops, orders have been given for all such ships to be detained at examination anchorage and searched. Request that examination staffs may be re-inforced forthwith for this purpose from Contraband Control service (F.O. i/c Greenock to Adty. 1107/17)

HOME SECURITY D. of L.D. gave details of decisions made on 16th. May by the Home Defence Executive. Demolitions etc. at mercantile ports were being arranged to render the ports unserviceable for seven days (D. of M.)

Cruisers at Nore.

~~To~~ In view of enemy's destroyer and transport commitments in Norway, I doubt if destroyer attack in Nore Command is likely at present.

GALATEA and ARETHUSA are ~~at present~~ boiler cleaning at Portland. If you need them North I am quite ready to surrender them until situation changes.

You will realise ~~I am sure~~, that cruiser support for our destroyers is an urgent need on any occasion when the enemy shows signs of making an attack with surface forces. (C.-in-C Nore 1324/17 to C.-in-C (H.F.)

WITH THE DELIVERIES STILL TO BE EXPECTED AND THE STOCK WHICH FARMERS WILL STORE FOR THEIR PERSONAL SUPPLY, THE TOTAL WHEAT HARVEST THIS YEAR WILL AMOUNT TO 250,000,000 BUSHELS, IT WAS STATED.

THIS WILL SURPASS THE PREVIOUS RECORD HARVEST YEAR OF 1933.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

THE PRESENT OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF THE CROP IS 210,000,000 BUSHELS, THE CROP IN 1933 REACHED 214,000,000 BUSHELS.

S-2 --REUTER.

10.25 GOVERNMENT OFFER TO BUY BROADCASTING STATION.

SINGAPORE, FEB 26: THE STRAITS GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED TO TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE UNDERTAKING OF THE BRITISH MALAYA BROADCASTING CORPORATION.

THE CONCERN, WHICH IS A PUBLIC COMPANY, IS SINGAPORE'S ONLY BROADCASTING ORGANISATION.

DETAILS OF THE OFFER ARE NOT DISCLOSED, BUT IT IS REGARDED AS MOST PROBABLE THAT IT WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE SHAREHOLDERS AT THEIR MEETING TO BE HELD ON MARCH 2. --REUTER.

SECRET

17-5-40
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

With Aerodrome. Defence against parachute troops causing some concern. Report consideration to strengthening defence and to stationing reinforcements at Thurso. (A.C.O.S. 1750/17)

Lowestoft. Am improvising examination service at Lowestoft and have closed that harbour pm sunset to sunrise to all ships unless they have permission pm Commander M/S, Lowestoft. No lights will be shown in harbour at night. (Note., Yarmouth, 1640/17)

Clyde. In view of possibility of hostile ships entering Clyde with intention of mining themselves in the channel or of landing troops, all ships are to be detained at the examination anchorage and thoroughly searched. Request examination staff may be reinforced. (F.O., Greenock, 1107/17)

Jersey Airport. Repeating Air Ministry 2240/16. Admty considers responsibility pertains to Governor of Jersey with whom SNO Jersey should cooperate. (Bd. of A., 2317/17)

19.13. WASHINGTON CUT OFF FROM BELGIUM AND HOLLAND

.....N E W Y O R K, MAY 15.....THE STATE DEPARTMENT AT WASHINGTON HAS, SINCE LAST NIGHT, BEEN CUT OFF FROM COMMUNICATION BY WIRELESS OR CABLE WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT BRUSSELS AND THE LEGATION AT THE HAGUE.

ACCORDING TO STATEMENTS BY CABLE COMPANIES ALL CABLE COMMUNICATIONS WITH BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS WERE ALSO CUT OFF THIS MORNING. --REUTER

CH-1

19.14. BRAZIL TO JOIN IN AMERICAN PROTEST

.....W A S H I N G T O N, MAY 15.....BRAZIL WILL JOIN TOMORROW IN THE JOINT PROTEST MADE BY THE AMERICAN NATIONS

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Movements.

17.5.1940
Friday.

GALATEA
ARETHUSA } Offer to release them if needed. (C in C Nore & C in C HF 1324/17). Thank you. I think they are better down south at present. (C in C HF, 1404/17)

S/M's Position 0600/18 and movements for 24 hours (V.A.S. 2019/17)

MAIDSTONE Your 1431/16. Approved to relieve CYCLOPS in 3rd S/M. Flot. Torpedoes for Forth as soon as stores available. (DOD (H) 0040/17)

THE PAST FEW DAYS AND CONCENTRATING ON THE BATTLE ZONE.

S-1 --REUTER.

12.25 GERMANS HURLED BACK INTO MEUSE SUFFERING ENORMOUS LOSSES.

PARIS, MAY 15: WHILE IT IS STATED HERE THAT THE GERMANS YESTERDAY SUCCEEDED IN CROSSING THE MEUSE AT SEVERAL POINTS NORTH OF DINANT AND SOUTH OF SEDEN, IT IS ADDED THAT ALLIED COUNTER ATTACKS, STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE AIR FORCE, THREW BACK A PART OF THE ATTACKERS INTO THE RIVER WITH ENORMOUS LOSSES.

THE BATTLE IS STILL GOING ON THIS MORNING. --REUTER

B-2

SECRET

17. 5. 40
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

MONTCALM
BRESTOIS
BOULONNAIS

French Cruiser MONTCALM with French Destroyers BRESTOIS and BOULONNAIS left Brest 1500 16th. May (F.O.C.N.A 1004/17)

~~From~~

17.10 AMERICAN COMPANY REPORT

NEW YORK, FEB 26.: COMMERCIAL SOLVENTS CORPORATION ANNOUNCE THAT NET EARNINGS FOR 1939 AMOUNTED TO 1,600,000 DOLLARS, EQUAL TO SIXTY-ONE CENTS PER SHARE COMPARED WITH A NET LOSS OF 294,000 DOLLARS FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR. --REUTER

M-2

17.14 TEXAS INCREASES CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION

NEW YORK, FEB 26.: THE TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION HAS UNEXPECTEDLY INCREASED THE MARCH ALLOWABLE PRODUCTION OF CRUDE OIL TO 1,479,421 BARRELS DAILY, WHICH IS 89,370 BARRELS MORE THAN THE CORRESPONDING FIGURE FOR FEBRUARY. THE COMMISSION THUS IGNORED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE CONSUMPTION ESTIMATES OF THE BUREAU OF MINES, WHICH ARE OVER 100,000 BARRELS LESS.

IT IS FEARED THAT IF OTHER STATES FOLLOW THIS EXAMPLE A SERIOUS PRICE REACTION WILL ENSUE. THE STATE OF TEXAS ALONE, ON THIS BASIS, IS SCHEDULED TO OVER-PRODUCE 3,340,000 BARRELS DURING NEXT MONTH. --REUTER

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS 17.5.40
Operations Friday

Dutch Coast.

Zeeland Surrender. Following received Humber Radio: S.O.S. To German General in Command, Netherlands. Dutch Troops have laid down their arms in Walcheren and North Beveland. Please stop bombardment of towns and villages. Commander, Zeeland.
(F.O. Humber, 1950/17)

Terschelling Lightship Dutch request that crew of Terschelling lightship should be removed. Request you will arrange for this to be done by a submarine. (DOD(H) 6VAS, 1456/17)
L.23 detailed for this duty. (VAS, 1739/17)

09.37 NEW ITALIAN ENVOY FOR BERLIN. MAY 15.

THE NEW ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY, SIGNOR DINO ALFIERI, LEFT ROME LAST NIGHT FOR BERLIN, ACCORDING TO THE GERMAN WIRELESS. --REUTER

B-1

09.38 GERMANS CLAIM 70 ALLIED PLANES DOWN MAY 15.

A GERMAN HIGH COMMAND STATEMENT BROADCAST BY THE GERMAN RADIO EARLY THIS MORNING CLAIMED THAT 70 ALLIED PLANES WERE BROUGHT DOWN IN THE SEDAN REGION YESTERDAY. --REUTER

M-2

HOME COMMANDS

17. 5. 40
Friday

SECRET

Belgian Coast
Operations ~~Lyster (DF & EF)~~
DF & EF.

Force sailed.

Force has
~~Relief ship for Vendovergen and Ostend~~ sailed and
expect to arrive 0830/18 (Adty to B.N.L.O. Marcean 1925/17,
DOD(H)/1022/17)

Operations DF and EF are to proceed but blocking is
not to take place without orders from Adty (VCNS 1247/17
to VE & A)

5% AUST 1945/75..103 4-1/2% AUSTRIAN..46

5% BRAZ 1931..30 6-1/2% BRAZ 1927..15

6% CHILE 1926..16-1/2 5% CHIN 1913..28

4-1/2% FRENCH..11 4-1/2% GERMAN..5

5% GERMAN..6-1/2 5% JAP 1907..36

6% JAP 1924..41 7% S PLO CFFEE 1930..35

INTERNATIONALS:

AM CEL..6-5/8 ANACONDA..6-1/4 CAN PAC..7

EMIS..8/- GEN MTRS..56 HYDROS..2-3/4

NCKLS..40 SOCONY..11-1/2 TRACTNS..7-7/8

RAILS: G W R..34 L M S..15 L N E R..2 S R..14

B A G S..6-1/2 CENT ARG..5-3/8

MINES: ANG AMER..1-1/2 ASHANTI..2-11/16 BRKN HL S..18/9

BURMA CRP..8/3 CONS DIAMD WA..4/9 DE BEERS DF..5-3/4

E RAND CONS..1/9 G C S..11/9 KLERKSDORP..7-1/2 KWAHU..11/16

N BRKN HL..28/9 RANDFONTEIN..1-31/32 RHOD ANG..17/3

R S T..11/9 RIO TINTO..10-1/2 ROAN ANT..13/6 S A LANDS..4-7/8

SEL TRUST..8/9 SUB NIGEL..9-3/4 TREPCA..2/4-1/2 WRITS..5/-

WEST WITS..2-13/16 WESTN REEF..13/6

RUBBERS: ALL SUMATRA..12/9 ANG DUTCH..20/3 LDN ASIATIC..3/-

RUBBER TRUST..27/3 UTD SERDANG..2/6 UTD SUA BET..2-7/32

MISCELLANEOUS: BARCLAYS..64/- LLOYDS..24/- MIDLAND..77/6

NAT PROV..45/6 WESTMINSTER..73/- HONGKONG SHG..80

CHARTERED BK..8-5/8 RHOD BRKN HL..2/4-1/2 RHOKANA..9-5/8

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Operations DF, EF.

17.5.1940
Friday

~~Belgian~~ ~~Dutch~~ Coast — Operations ~~DF, EF (Ingoldsby)~~

F.O.D.E. and staff arrive Sheerness 1300/17. (Com. Lemans-Williams, 1013/17)

S.O.'s ship VEGA expects to leave Sheerness at 1300/17. Route to Ostend and Zeebrugge. (DOD(H) 1030/17).

Requesting A/S escort (DOD(H) 1031/17)

Sail forces D and E. Time of arrival of forces E to be 0830/18 (D.O.D.(H) 1035/17).

Request available ships of 6th M.S. Flot. be sailed to R.V. with D and E at N. Goodwin at 2000/17.

(DOD(H) 1041/17)

F.O.D.E. has assumed command of forces D. & E. in VEGA (FODE 1401/17)

Request can will detail 2 destroyers to take demolition parties with stores to Ostend and Zeebrugge. (DOD(H) 1914/17)

Operation postponed.

For Comdr. Petersen. Operation postponed. Keep approaches ~~(1412/17)~~ to Ostend and Zeebrugge clear as far as possible (DOD(H) 2318/17 to BNLO Dunkirk)

Operation postponed. Anchor as convenient in swept channel. (C in C Nore to F.O.D.E., VEGA. 2046/17)

Forces anchored in swept channel (F.O.D.E., 2200/17)

Operation postponed and force returning to Sheerness. (D.C., 2221/17 to Air Min.)

~~Operation Oyster postponed and force returning to Sheerness (DC 2221/17 to Air Min.)~~

09.33 LOW COUNTRIES' DIPLOMATS LEAVE GERMANY.

BERNE, MAY 15: THE SPECIAL TRAIN TAKING MEMBERS OF THE BELGIAN AND DUTCH LEGATIONS FROM BERLIN WILL LEAVE LINDAU, ON THE GERMAN SIDE OF THE SWISS FRONTIER, FOR FRANCE THIS EVENING. -REUTER

B-1

09.34 U. S. A. BECOMING ANXIOUS

NEW YORK, MAY 15: AMERICAN OPINION, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WAR IN EUROPE, HAS TURNED TO URGENT CONSIDER-

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Belgium.

17.5.40
Friday

REFUGEES. Of the 300,000 refugees the French wish to evacuate from Belgium 100,000 will be brought to FOLKESTONE and SOUTHAMPTON and 200,000 to French west coast ports. Two railway steamers are already working from Zeebrugge and OSTEND. (M.S.M. [redacted])
3 ships sailed with refugees (VA Dover 1325/17)

~~OPERATION R.M. 125 Mines were laid by A/C. [redacted] last night (M.S.M.)~~

09.41 GERMAN ENTRY INTO AMSTERDAM MAY 15.

THE FOLLOWING "MOST URGENT MESSAGE" FROM THE GERMAN CONSUL-GENERAL IN AMSTERDAM TO THE REICH FOREIGN OFFICE IN BERLIN WAS BROADCAST IN GERMAN OVER THE HILVERSUM WAVELENGTH EARLY THIS MORNING.

"THE COMMANDER OF THE GARRISON OF AMSTERDAM AND THE LORD MAYOR OF AMSTERDAM INFORMED ME LAST NIGHT THAT GERMAN TROOPS WILL NOT ENCOUNTER ANY DIFFICULTIES WHEN ENTERING AMSTERDAM.

"EVERYTHING HAS BEEN PREPARED SO THAT THE ENTRY OF THE GERMAN TROOPS CAN PROCEED WITHOUT A HITCH AND THE POPULATION WILL REMAIN CALM." --REUTER

M-2

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Operations

17.5.40
Friday

Dutch Warships.

GRUNO. Your 1146/16. Dutch authorities have agreed to GRUNO working under your orders for Thames Local Defence but she should be degaussed before service. (DDD.(H) to C-in-C Nore, 1454/17)

2.6 Dutch T.B.'s 2.6 and 2.7 arrived. (C-in-C Portsmouth,
2.7 1849/17)

~~Minesweepers. Dutch mine~~ DIRKJE, CLAESJE, ~~Minesweepers~~ ~~ABRAHAM STAKENBROT~~, ~~BLOEMENDAAL~~, IMMERING for Leave in ~~Portsmouth 0520/18. (NOIC Ramsgate, 2140/17).~~ ~~Laibud (Fort Halstead to Spithead (Fort Halstead 1053/17)~~

List. Particulars of Dutch Naval Forces in home waters.
(DNI 2120/17 & C-in-C H.F.)

Submarines. S/M's of the Dutch Flotilla now forming at Portsmouth will shortly be operating in southern part of North Sea. Instructions for escort and liaison (V.A.S., 1941/17) Surface vessel required to escort them between Portsmouth and the Downs, etc. T.B.'s 2.6 and 2.8 are suitable (V.A.S., 1839/17)

09.40 U.S. TO REPRESENT BELGIUM IN BERLIN

WASHINGTON, MAY 15.: THE UNITED STATES HAS AGREED TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG IN GERMANY.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO INDICATED THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY WILL REMAIN IN BRUSSELS AND IN THE EVENT OF BRUSSELS FALLING INTO GERMAN HANDS WOULD REPRESENT THE ALLIES THERE.

THE SAME APPLIES TO THE U.S. LEGATION AT THE HAGUE.

M-2 --REUTER

WAR DIARY.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

11.5.40.
Saturday.

Ships attacked.

Dutch Pilot Steamer sunk. Struck magnetic mine off E. end of Rozenburg Island. Believe gold was on board. No survivors located yet. Comdr. Hill and half crew of WILD SWAN were on board proceeding to Rotterdam to evacuate gold (WILD SWAN 0818/11 2217/11, DDIC 1420/11) The wreck lies, as well as that of S.S. ROOK near the entrance to NOORD GEUL.

S.S. ROOK Sunk

VEAL sunk ARCTIC HUNTER reports 0230/11 picked up 5 survivors of mined Estonian S.S. VEAL West Hinder Buoy (C. in C. Nore 0715/11) Note An explosion was observed 1040/11 10 miles E. of Noss Head (58° 28.5' N. 3° 3' W) See Mining.

TRINGA. British (1930 tons) Antwerp to Glasgow was mined and sunk 51° 21.2' N 2° 26.2' E (1½ miles S. of W Hinder Buoy at 1312). She was not in the channel. 6 survivors landed at Ramsgate, 2 wounded (DCNS 251) FOC Dover 1524/11.

AMAZONE Attacked midnight 10/11 by an unknown S/M 20 miles W. of Texel (DCNS 251)

S/M's Reported.

Estimated dispositions (DDIC 1308/11)

0434 B.S.T. D.F. reliable fix, probable U-boat (DC.0545/11) Probably surface craft (DDIC 0729/11)

Unknown s/m CPOX 5426 (AMAZONE 0100/11) one s/m passed Vojkoy 68° 25' N 13° 58' E at high speed . Reported from shore. (VINDICTIVE 3125/11)

1435 310 KELLY 25 (a/c 224 Sqn. 1453/11)

0750 by islander 5 miles N.N.E. Fair I. going E. 9 knots. Cannot confirm (Scapa W/T 0750/11).

S/M's attacked.

1439 See KELLY (No hits were obtained)

WAR DIARY.

11.5.40
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

Kirkenes.

Admiralty 2116/9. Confirmed that there are now 2 Norwegian Battalions at Kirkenes but no information in Tromso of any intention to reinforce nor are any Norwegian troops available. Local opinion is that visit of one of H.M.Ships would have valuable moral effect. Further information is being sought locally and on receipt intend to proceed to Kirkenes. (F.O.C.I.C.S.0301/11)

French Naval Attache Helsinki received unconfirmed report that one division of German troops arrived Murmansk and are proceeding possibly by sea to Northern Norway. Grade C 3. (B.N.L.O.Marceau 1959/11)

Iceland (Operations Fork).

BERWICK
GLASGOW
Destroyers

BERWICK and GLASGOW proceed to Liverpool for refit and repairs respectively. Ships will probably arrive p.m. /12. GLASGOW has on board German Consular Staff including 3 women and 20 other prisoners. Destroyers to Scapa. (C.in C. H.F.1052/11) BERWICK has 33 prisoners. (BERWICK 1831/11).

The Government of Iceland has protested against the British infringement of its neutrality by having occupied the island and reserve the right to claim compensation for any damage which may be done. The German consul and 51 other Germans were arrested, documents were seized and a censorship has been set up. (S.O.I. Iceland 0045/11).

Dispositions of Troops etc.,

Total number of prisoners 52. (Jolly 0400/11). (S.O.(I) Iceland 0045/11).

1935/6 report arrangements made regarding disembarkation of "Walrus" aircraft and details of F.A.A.personnel, stores and fuel landed. (D.N.A.D.1851/11 to BERWICK).

WAR DIARY. 11.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

Submarines.

6 British s/ms proceeding to patrol from Aldeburgh L.V.
2 French s/ms returning to Harwich from patrol (C.in C. Nore 1528/11).

SNAPPER.
SWORDFISH. Orders (Captain (S) 3 1717/11).

Bombing restrictions. 12/5 onwards (S6 1812/11, S9, 1819/11, S2 1142/11).

Enemy Transport. from southward expected to enter Trondheim tonight. If you are in position to do so try to intercept her. (R.A.(S)1314/11 to CLYDE).

Positions. 0600/12 (Dc 2040/11, V.A.(S) 1854/11).

2 transports torpedoed. Effectiveness of patrol mitigated by evasive routeing, lack of darkness and wind. Air patrol zealous. Surface patrol rare but noisy. Monday attacked 2 southbound screened transports, 570 class. Both apparently hit. Confirm surface mines previously reported. (SEA LION 2201/11)

Allied Submarines.

TAKU. Your 1631/10. No ships sighted since attack. 2 ships heard patrolling Thursday night in low visibility, several Danish vessels in vicinity. Occasional air patrols and numerous under-water explosions at varying distances. Suspect light damage to external tanks from depth charges but no serious defects. Suspect fishing vessels are being employed in A/S work. (TAKU 0205/11 to R.A (S))

WAR DIARY.

11.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

NORWAY.

Aircraft Carriers.

Send JAGUAR and one Tribal destroyer back to Scapa forthwith at best possible speed (C.in C. H.F.0920/11 to V.A.A.)

Re Ministers etc., to be taken to Tromso by GLORIOUS (V.C.N.S.1346/11).

All a/c's embarked 2000/11 (GLOHIOUS 2045/11)

Ready to sail.

FURIOUS, GLORIOUS will be ready to sail 12/5 FURIOUS carries Gladiators, GLORIOUS carries Hurricanes. Request confirmation that aerodrome likely to be available for Hurricanes within four days of arrival of GLORIOUS. If latter does not accompany FURIOUS escorts will probably not be available for her to sail for some time. (V.C.N.S.1310/11 to F.O. Narvik)
C.in C.H.F.2314/10, Admiralty 1919/4, aerodrome will not be ready to receive a/c's 16/5 (R.A.Narvik 1526/11).

In view of R.A.Narvik's 1526/11 propose GLORIOUS and FURIOUS should not sail 12/5. YORK is available at Rosyth to transport persons mentioned in your 1346/10. (C.in C. H.F.2216/11, D.O.D.(H) 2342/11)
When will aerodrome be ready. Carriers not sailing pending your reply (D.O.D.(H)2258/11 to R.A.Narvik)
Your 1310/11. Barrak aerodrome ready 15/5. Good progress Bardufoss and Skaanland but date cannot be given. Request GLORIOUS, FURIOUS sail 12/5 with Hurricanes and Gladiators to land Barrak. (F.O.Narvik 2329/11 2215/11).

Air.

British Air Activity.

Norwegian craft.

3 Blenheims leaving Hatston as soon as possible to make reconnaissance from Lister to 62°N (C.in C. Rosyth 0734/11).

Air Searches

for 12/5 (C.in C. Rosyth 2150/11)

WAR DIARY

11.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air. (Continued).

British Air Activity.

Co-operation between A/C's and ships.	Conference to be held 1100/14 (D.S.D. 1445/11).
Attack on Bergen	To be made by 1 section of Blenheims and 6 Skuas p.m./12. Warships sighted and M.V.'s in Fjords or within 10 miles of Coast of Norway to be reported. Special importance attached also to reconnaissance of Stavanger Aerodrome.(Donibristle 2014/11). Objectives petrol tanks at Kvarven and enemy ships in harbour (A.C.O.S.1705/11) 5 tanks remain undamaged at Florvaaspynt 1204/11. Two camouflaged ships W.P.N.O. 5605 1220/11, 3 M.V's heading North Sea 1214/11 from Kors Fjord(Hatston 1623/11) All aircraft returned. Complete surprise achieved. Heavy damage to fuel tanks at Florvaaspynt Island two largest burning fiercely when last seen and fire spreading. Considerable short range fire from target in late stage of attack. (Distribution 1001/11= A.C.O.S.1040/11 to Admiralty.
IRIS (Dutch) attacked (IRIS 0729/11)	All safe aboard s.s. IRIS. Planes disappeared S.W. direction. (IRIS 0748/11) ARETHUSA proceeding to join her. (ARETHUSA 1743/11)
PENELOPE	3 A/C's attacking convoy. (PENELOPE 1021/IF) See also Narvik.
FURY HAVOCK }	See Dutch Coast.
WHITSHED	Description of attack and damage. Charges on X gun deck ignited by near miss. Nine attacks, mostly dive bombing. Ship will be ready for sea in 24 hours. Casualties. (V.A. Dover 1314/11)
CODRINGTON	Bombed (CODRINGTON 1853/11)
s.s. PRINZ WILLEM VAN ORANJE	Hit by bomb off Flushing 1853. Want assistance. (Scheveningen Radio 1937/11)

WAR DIARY. 11th May, 1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Enemy mining on Dutch and Belgian coasts.

The situation is obscure, but reports of enemy mining have been received in following positions:-
Off Calais and Dunkirk (B2).
Flushing Roads near Ostend and Zeebrugge (B2)
5 miles off Ostend on a bearing between 015° and 020° (Ao).
Ymuiden harbour and seaward end of waterway to Rotterdam, about 1 mile from sea. Port of Ymuiden is still open (B2).
N.E.of Walcheren (B2).
5 miles from Flushing. Flushing Roads and Scheldt above flushing (B2).
A report from a neutral source states that the Germans have laid magnetic mines in all Dutch harbours (B2).
A Dutch pilot vessel has been mined near Rotterdam, at E end of Rozenburg Island.
240° Ymuiden South Pier Light, 7 miles. A2.
In the New Waterway as far up as Rotterdam. A1.
Possibly between Flushing and Wielingen outer Buoy.
In Roombot. B3.
(N.O.i/c. Dover 0058/11, I.C.0444/40, 0445/40
D.D.I.C.1420/11.)

S.E.Coast.

Reports of enemy a/c mining off S.E.Coast from Lowestoft to Beachy Head (B2) (I.C.0447/40).

RUBIS.

Your 1041/11 (proposed laying by RUBIS) Concur (V.C.N.S.1754/11 to V.A.(S)).

Sweeping reports.

1 mine swept 58° 56'N 1°37¾' E (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1900/11). Magnetic mine exploded by LL sweep 28° 6' N 4° 2' 36"W. (N.O.I.C.Swansea 1438/11.)

Coast of Low Countries.

Re Trawlers sweeping, A A protection etc. (D.M.S.1421/11.)

E.Coast Mine Barrier. EXPRESS ESK INTREPID Line BS3.

Will be laying mines in 000° direction for 4.5 miles from 52° 36'N 2°56'E p.m./12.
(R.A.(S)1706/11, D.D.O.D(M)1531/11, 1326/11).

Operation CBX.

Report of (PRINCESS VICTORIA 1115/11).
(Carried out 2107/10).

WAR DIARY. 11th May, 1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys OB.147. NS3. → Route etc. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 0936/11).
→ Sailing delayed till a.m./12 (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1745/11, D.O.D.(H)1452/11) List of ships. (N.O.I.C.Greenock 1320/11).

Enemy Reports.
(See also Air)

Lardalsoen. One large ship is reported to be unloading South of Lardalsoen 66°14'N 13°21'E. B2. (I.C.0445/40).

Surface craft. Reported 0434 by D.F. (D.C.0545/11, 0729/11) At 2035/11 in approx. 56°30'N between 2° and 3°E. By D/F (D.D.I.C.2127/11) B3.

3 destroyers unidentified, reported by a/c 1320 in 53°35'N. 6°25'E, apparently entering the Ems. (I.C.0445/40)B3.

1 destroyer at 2300 a/c reported 1 destroyer stationary 6 miles N.W. Heligoland (I.C.0445/40) B3.

Miscellaneous.

German prisoners. Dutch wish to send 1,000 German prisoners to England, they will provide ship and armed guard. Please provide escort and arrange direct with Hague (D.C.1055/11 to C.in C.Nore).

Warship building. and repairs to have priority over merchant ship building. (Contr. 1342/11).

Refugees. Admiral Nord is sending 2 destroyers now to Ymuiden to evacuate French refugees (B.N.L.O.Dunkirk 1639/11).

HANONIA (Estonian 1781 tons) Condemned as prize 26/4 by German Prize Court (N.M.S.E.33. 11/5).

WAR DIARY. 11th May, 1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous. (Contd.)

Evacuees.	MALCOLM to intercept and bring to Downs 3 or more Dutch trawlers which leave Scheveningen with British and French evacuees. (V.A.Dover 1832/11) Cancel. Trawlers have not sailed (V.A.Dover 6057/12)	1800/12
MONARK	(Sunk by SEVERN 4/5) A.N.A. Stockholm to report if shewn under charter or not (V.A.S.1114/11).	
Evacuees.	Intercept L.N.E.R. steamer has probably been sent Ymuiden this evening to embark refugees. Carry out my 1445Ø and paragraph one of my 1609. (C.in C.Nore 1950/11 May to C S 2, VIVIEN. Capt.(D)1, WHITLEY).	
Landing grounds in Orkneys and Shetlands.	V A C O S. No.555/OS 327 dated 7th May. I strongly support his proposals in paragraph 7 and request work be pressed on with. My views on the urgency of the construction of additional landing grounds in the Orkney and Shetlands area have been repeatedly expressed since the war began. (C.in C. H.F.1751/11).	
Evacuees.	My 1450 and 1455 11th May. Dutch trawler refused to sail. Hague evacuees and those from Amsterdam sail tonight Saturday in S.S. DOTTEREL for Downs from Ymuiden. (N.A.Hague 1930/11).	

Weather.

	Wind.	Visibility.	Outlook.
North Sea.	Between N.W. and N.E. Light to moderate.	Very good.	Similar.
Channel.	Northerly, light.	Poor to moderate coastal haze.	Similar, visibility improving.
Western Approaches.	Northerly, light.	Moderate to good, coastal haze.	Similar.
Horn's Reef.	W., moderate.	Good.	Similar.
Dutch Coast.	Light, variable.	Moderate.	Similar.
W.Coast Norway.	In south, S.W. to W., fresh	Good.	Similar.
	In north, easterly, fresh.	Moderate, poor in showers.	Uncertain.

WAR DIARY. 11th May, 1940.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

BERWICK	Proceed to Liverpool for refit. (C.in C.H.F.1052/11).
GLASGOW	Proceed to Liverpool for repairs (do.)
KELLY see also	Tugs sent to R V with KELLY 2300/11. (C.in C.Rosyth 1129/11, 1711/11, 1736/11, 1739/11, F.O.C.18 C.S. 1610/11, Cruiser and destroyers bombed. No hits. One A/c reports at least 2 S/m's in vicinity. My position 56°14'N 1°53'E.
S/m's reported	KELLY now in tow of FURY has made no progress since 0600 (F.O.C.18 C.S.1505/11). Cruisers return to Rosyth. If there are S/m's in vicinity tow should be cast off until tugs arrive and all 3 destroyers screen KELLY. Presume only small party of KELLY's crew remains on board her (C.in C. H.F. 1609/11 to C.S.18, D5, FURY). KANDAHAR sailed 1640 at utmost speed (KANDAHAR 1712/11). Comply with C.in C.H.F.1609/11. 2 S/m's were reported by a/c's in your vicinity and SHEFFIELD has had several other firm contacts between you and me (F.O.C.18 C.S. 1752/11 to Capt.D5). Request fighter patrol 12/5 as from today. Afternoon appears favourite time for bombing. Suggest machines of highest performance are out then. A/S air patrol also required. (F.O.C.18 C.S.1925/11).
AURORA	Details of damage (AURORA 1250/10).
SEAL	Lieut. T.B.J.D.Butler, SEAL, has been reported through Red Cross prisoner of war wounded in hospital in N.Jutland. This confirms your 1847/9 (C.W.1341/11 to V.A.(S)).
VANSITTART.	Damaged by air bombing at Narvik p.m./10. Deck holed, W/T and 2 guns out of action, 2 officers killed, 1 wounded. (D.C.N.S.251).

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. 11.5.40.
Saturday.

French positions. 1200/11. Convoys Nil. Patrols one P.V. off Vigo (D.C.0011/11).

H.G.31. Route (D.T.D.1133/11).

Arrangements if Italy hostile Admiralty 1256/9. (11) 26th Divn. Destroyers would be detached to Eastern Mediterranean and Captain (D) 13 and 25th Divn retained. (111) A/S Trawlers. (iv) Assumed that Convoy commitment will cease. (v) French patrol to westward. (vi) Your estimate of Air Forces required considered insufficient. Require 12 flying boats and 5 Swordfish for full efficiency. FOCNA 1304/10 to Admiralty).

South Atlantic.

Belgian and Dutch ships Asking if homeward bound Belgian and Dutch ships should be ordered to Freetown to join convoy (NCSO Pernambuco 1105/11)

Mediterranean.

Italian preparations. Italian Navy are requisitioning number of motor fishing vessels and tugs. Similar action was taken in August 1939 and craft were then allocated mainly to N. Africa and Dodecanese. 2nd Sqn. appear to be concentrating at Naples. Situation otherwise unchanged. Army and R.A.F. Normal (Captain O.S. St. Angelo 1042/11)

Arrangements if Italy hostile
1. Reprisals Order in Council will be extended to Italy.
2. If Gibraltar overcrowded ships may be sent to Casablanca or allowed to proceed to Allied port outside Mediterranean on Master's undertaking to go there.
3. Malta base will be closed. Black Sea, Aegean and Adriatic traffic directed to Haifa.
4. Traffic from Far East will be dealt with at Aden. Southbound traffic continue to be dealt with at Port Said. D.C. (ACNS 1657/11).

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS. 11.5.40.
Saturday.

East Indies.

H.S.3 SYDNEY — Your 2002/10 this was not my intention but SYDNEY will now R.V. with US3 in approx. 10° S, absence of all cruisers from Ceylon area being accepted for time being. (C. in C.E.I.05192/11) (Note 2002/10 assumed he intended SYDNEY to join escort for US3 at Cocos Is.)

Italian Preparations. — Persistent rumours which I have no means of checking that certain Blackshirts units are being sent from Massawa to Kenya frontier. (C.G. Addis Ababa No45 10/5)

Australia.

Although the German ships in the Netherlands East Indies are now reported to have been seized by the Dutch East Indies Authorities, it would be much appreciated if CERES and COLOMBO could remain under the Orders of the C. in C. China for a further short period, until the whole position of the Netherland East Indies has been clarified. (ACNS 1935/11 to ACNB)

America and West Indies.

BHX Convoy Programme — Cancel programme in my 1415/27/4 and substitute (C. in C. AWI 0115/11)

Offer of 2 destroyers. — by Canadian Govt. Opportunity for offensive operations in West Indies now greatly reduced in view of calm prevalent in Dutch Islands and seizure or scuttling of all in V's. One destroyer would, however, be very useful at Bermuda for local convoy escort duty and would be suitably placed to intercept Italian shipping on E. coast of U.S.A. if required or to return to Halifax at short notice. (C. in C. A.W.I.1350/11)

Admiralty 1302/11. Situation normal. Removal of Germans to Jamaica considered of great assistance. (DESPATCH2251/11) Asking if Admiralty can provide ship to carry 725 troops from Halifax 21/5 or 22/5 to Jamaica (CNS Ottawa 1123/11)

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS. 11.5.40. Saturday.

China.

FALMOUTH
CERES
COLOMBO

Once it has been confirmed that German Merchant ships in Netherlands East Indies have been seized by Dutch East Indies Authorities intend to withdraw all patrols off Netherlands East Indies, send H.M.S. CERES and H.M.S. COLOMBO to Australia and HMS FALMOUTH to Colombo.
(C. in C. China 0204Z/11)

Your 0204/11. Concur with sailing of FALMOUTH for Colombo. Until, however, the whole position of the Netherlands East Indies has been cleared up, it is considered preferable to retain CERES and COLOMBO.
The Australian Commonwealth Naval Board are being requested to spare these ships for a further short period.
(D.O.D.(F) 1934/11 to C. in C. China)

WAR DIARY

11.5.40.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS
Home Commands

LOTTE — (2,115 tons) reported 11/5 to Ruegen that she expected to arrive at Hamburg 0600/11 (I.C.0448/40) Known fact.

BARCELONA — (3,101 tons) was instructed by owners to unload at Stockholm 0941/11. Known fact. (I.C.0448/40).

North Atlantic

KLAUS SCHOKE — Have now anchored off harbour (Vc Horta 1630/10).

LUISE
BORNHOPER

East Indies

SOPHIE
RICKMERS
etc. — Of 19 German ships refuging in N.E.I. 18 were seized 10/5 by Dutch authorities without incident, one SOPHIE RICKMERS at Salang scuttled in deep water (C.G. Batavia No. 34 11/5).

UCKERMARK
TANNENFELS — Reported they intend to leave Chisimais before monsoon breaks (D.E.W.D.1312/11 to C. in C. E.I.)

WAR DIARY

11.5.40.
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.
China.

Reliable source reports 1,000 tons tungsten ore 400 tons tin recently loaded German ship possibly to avoid storage charges but may be destined Vladivostok.

BURGENLAND — Master of German ship BURGENLAND has stated Kobe ships have orders to sail for Vladivostok at first opportunity B.I.(Capt. O.S. Singapore 0452Z/11). German ships at Kobe are: BURGENLAND, KULMERLAND, MUNSTERLAND, SCHARNHORST, R.C. RICKMERS, ANNALIESE RICKMERS, ELSA ESSBERGER.

11.5.40.

Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Mosjoen, Bodo, Mo. (Continued).

Situation

Situation Mosjoen Bodo Area. Enemy occupy Mosjoen. They have been advancing North by sea, land and aircraft coasting steamers escorted by aircraft. 650 troops landed. Hemnes 15 230° from Mo. at 1930 10th May from Transport and 10 flying boats. H.M.S. CALCUTTA and H.M.S. ZULU sank this transport at 2100/10 probably before stores were unloaded.
H.M.S. ENTERPRISE, H.M.S. CAIRO, FLEETWOOD HESPERUS with 820 troops and Store Ship MARGOT are proceeding now to effect landing at Mo. or Bodo A.M. 12th May. H.M.S. NUBIAN and transport WESTERMAN landed approximately 300 troops Bodo last night 10th May.
(F.O. Narvik 1130/11).

ø

MOST IMMEDIATE. H.M.S. JACKAL and H.M.S. JAVELIN are to proceed to Mo. 066° 19' North 014° 10' East and make contact with Colonel Gubbins' Force last reported at Sandnesjoen 066° 02' North 012° 38' East. To assist Gubbins establish him and when satisfied no further help from Navy is immediately required to proceed in execution of previous orders. Report fully on situation in Mo. Area from Naval point of view. One large enemy transport reported leaving Bergen Northward p.m. 10th May.
(F.O. Narvik 1354/11).

ø Your 1130/11. It is not knownwhat orders you have given to force being landed by ENTERPRISE but we are sure you have considered possibility of cleaning up the enemy troops landed at Hemnes (1st S.L.2310/11 to F.O. Narvik.

War Diary

20.4.1940
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Aandalsnes

Captain Denny
General Morgan.

Operation Primrose.

Reinforcements. Force of 2000 men and 200 tons stores to be transported from Rosyth to Aandalsnes to arrive p.m. 23/4. Embark a.m. /21. 2 cruisers of 18th C.S., 1 of 2nd C.S., 6 destroyers to be detailed. This is in addition to requirement in my 1422/19 and 1938/19 (A.C.N.S.(A)0226/20.)
GALATEA detailed for duties in 0226/20.
ARETHUSA for duties in 1422/19, 1938/19
(C.S.2.1101/20 to Adty.)
My 2319/18 para 6. (amended orders of Primrose).
No further action is to be taken with regard to this operation pending further instructions (D.O.D.(H)1138/20 to BLACK SWAN, S.N.O. Molde, PRIMROSE.)

CARLISLE Andalsnes arrival F.O.C.20 C.S. in CARLISLE. (BLACK SWAN 0900/20).

Landing Facilities. Immediate information required re landing facilities at Aandalsnes, Molde, Romsdalfiord, Langfiord and Fannefiord. (D. of P.0240/20 to BLACK SWAN for S.N.O. Molde).

Reply (C.S.2 1023/20).

Oil Supplies. ASHANTI's 1640. No fuel oil in area Christiansand north to Aalesund. Norwegian Navy and commerce use Diesel oil and gas oil. (S.N.O. Molde to BLACK SWAN, C.in C. H.F. etc. 1200/20).

Local Craft. Admty.2319/18. Details of fishing craft, ferry steamers etc. at Aalesund, Christiansand and Molde. In view of continuous enemy air observation, have not concentrated all ships as this will betray operation and provoke bombing, which has already happened at Molde. (S.N.O. Molde 1240/20).

Shore Resources Admty.2304/19. Details of railway rolling stock, labour, etc. About 1000 men and stores can be disembarked each night. (PRIMROSE 1901/20).

PRIMROSE, SICKLE. Your 2220/19. War Office have agreed to maintain Force PRIMROSE in conjection with Force SICKLE. Your requirements for seaboots, boots and cash will be forwarded from Rosyth. (D.of P. 1933/20 to PRIMROSE). Order of priority for personnel and stores (D.of P.1401/20).

Reliefs, Escort Vessels. Request 2 sloops from Rosyth Escort Force relieve BLACK SWAN at Aandalsnes and AUCKLAND at Namsos. Ship detailed for Aandalsnes is to embark Trebizond Naval Base Staff and stores ex s.s. ORION. (D.O.D.(H) 2114/20 to C.in C. Rosyth)

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Norway

F.O. Narvik reports that the enemy are landing reinforcements behind our lines, using aircraft and a coastal steamer armed with machine guns.

Strong Allied forces, however, including French, British, Polish, and Norwegian troops, are advancing towards railway north of Rombaks Fjord.

Gladiator aircraft have been flown off GLORIOUS and FURIOUS to an aerodrome in Narvik area; and Coastal Command aircraft bombed aerodromes at Vaernes and Stavanger on the Night of 20-21 May starting fires at both.

In Vaagsfjord on night of 20-21 May enemy aircraft set on fire the transport PEMBROKE COAST and supply ship BALTAEKO. PEMBROKE COAST (which carried petrol supplies) has been beached and must be regarded as total loss.

A report has been received of U-boats being used as petrol carriers to Trondheim (M.S.M. 20 May).

Italian Situation

It is reported from Rome that Senator Bullitt has recommended to President Roosevelt that the U.S. Atlantic Fleet should be sent into the Mediterranean.

War Diary.

20.4.40.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines reported. (Contd)

1812 My 1812/20 (report of submarine). Coastguard, V Vaternish, Skye, reports large A/C dropped 3 bombs entrance Loch Dunvegan at 1915. Bombs exploded on water and after third bomb black object appeared on surface, then disappeared. (C.in.C. Rosyth, 2027/20).

1250 57° 3' N. 5° 30' E seen on surface by SEVERN (I.C. 0427/40).

1300 4 miles N of Griminish, seen by fishermen. Doubtful. (I.C.0427/40)

Submarines Attacked.

0614 By ROCHESTER 343° Great Ormes Head 15 (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0845/20) (Rochester 0614/20).

2216 By H.M.S. MOLLUSC 52° 34' N., 02° 01' E. SHELDRAKE in company considers contact doubtful. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2216/20).

0900 U-Boat of about 200 tons bombed by A/C L.K.4S. 4042, no hits (H.Q.CC. 1711/20).

0906 D.F. C.K.W.Y. 2000 (U.R.C.C.1711/20).

1015 Reported by French naval unit X.U.D.N. 0309. (H.Q. C.C.1711/20).

0948 Reported by Coastguard, N.F.25 4004. A/C from Thorney Island. investigating. (H.Q. C.C.1711/20).

1420 By A/C in W.P.O.X.3206. (H.Q. C.C.1711/20).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Waters

JAVELIN with destroyers and trawlers has cut the cables between East Coast and Borkum and Norderney and hasrescued five survivors from a Whitley bomber.

Dunkerque, Calais, Boulogne, and Le Havre were bombed during the night 20-21 May; mines were probably laid in Thames Estuary and eastern end of Channel; the M/S trawler RIFSNESS was bombed and sunk at 1008/20; and a near miss caused casualties in MALCOLM.

The French PAVON, 4128 tons, was bombed near Calais by enemy aircraft, set on fire, and sunk at 2257/20.

At 1330 four enemy fishing vessels were attacked 70 miles off Horns Reef and one left in sinking condition; and at 1915 nine M.T.B.s were attacked by 3 Anson aircraft. No hits with bombs but one M.T.B. heavily machine-gunned and one Anson shot down.

Precautions are being taken against a possible enemy seaborne or airborne invasion.

Schemes are to be prepared to immobilise certain ports for 7 to 10 days in the event of invasion.

Enemy report

An aircraft of the Bomber Command, en route for a raid, reported one battleship and many destroyers five miles north of Norderney, course west, speed 15 knots, at 0015/20. Having bombed and missed, the aircraft reported a similar course, speed 10 knots, at 0150/20. A Hudson was sent at 0250 to verify this report. RENOWN, MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, SOUTHAMPTON, BIRMINGHAM, GALATEA, ARETHUSA and destroyers were brought to immediate notice. A torpedo bomber squadron and a bomber squadron were also ordered to be ready by 0700/20. At 0500, Hudson aircraft reported four destroyers off the Ems proceeding in the direction of Heligoland at high speed, and no sign of a larger ship.. Further investigation indicated that the original forces consisted of a heavy ship and only four destroyers. It therefore seemed likely that the heavy ship proceeded to the Ems.

Netherlands

German M.T.B.'s have started operating off the coast of Holland. Nine were attacked by our aircraft at 1901/20 25 miles 330° from Yjmuiden, results not known.

THE MOBILISATION IS ORDERED FOR TOMORROW AT 9 A.M.

S-1 --REUTER.

TT2.49 DUTCH TROOPS DESTROY BRIDGES. MAY 10.

A DUTCH NEWS AGENCY BROADCAST COMMUNIQUE IS AS FOLLOWS:

"EARLY THIS MORNING GERMAN TROOPS CROSSED THE NETHERLANDS FRONTIER AND ARE NOW IN TOUCH WITH OUR FRONTIER TROOPS. OUR FRONTIER TROOPS FULFILLED THEIR TASKS ACCORDING TO PLAN AND SUCCEEDED IN CARRYING OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WERE GIVEN TO THEM.

"THEY DESTROYED BRIDGES ACROSS THE RIVERS MEUSE AND YSSEL.

"ONLY IN ONE SECTION EAST OF THE TOWN OF ARNHEM, AT A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 9 MILES FROM THE NETHERLANDS-GERMAN FRONTIER, GERMAN TROOPS HAVE REACHED THE YSSL.

"IN [illegible]

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

SE RET

~~12.5.40~~
19.5.40
Sunday

S/m's ~~attacked~~ Reported.

~~1203 Req French and Trawler ALGLON 50°15'N 10°56'W. French report as reliable and as Lassingbrea first sighted by a/c (IC.0450/40)~~

1347 Confirmation that two or more U-Boats passing N.W. Scotland outward. At least one now off S. Hebrides and possibly another near Islay. (Adty. 1347/19)

1000 O.O. COBBERS reports S/M in 57°25'N. 9°15'W course 220 (C-in-C Rosyth 1140/19)

North Atlantic

1909 S.S. SARASTONE sighted S/M periscope 39°48'N 11°35'W (II.0456/40) E

10.40 BELGIAN PREMIER'S STATEMENT

BRUSSELS, MAY 10.: AFTER SEEING KING LEOPOLD THIS MORNING, M. PIERLOT, THE BELGIAN PREMIER, TOLD NEWSPAPERMEN THAT THE COUNTRY HAD BEEN ATTACKED. SHELLS HAD FALLEN IN MANY PLACES IN BRUSSELS.

FIRES HAD BROKEN OUT AT SEVERAL POINTS AT ETTERBEEK, A BRUSSELS COMMUNE, AND A BOMB HAD FALLEN IN THE PLACE MADOU NEAR THE CENTRE OF BRUSSELS, CAUSING A FIRE AND DAMAGE. CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED TO HAVE OCCURRED. --REUTER

M-2

10.41 COMMUNICATION WITH HOLLAND AND BELGIUM CUT MAY 10

U-BOAT ~~RAID~~ CAMPAIGN & MINING. 19.5.40
Sunday

Ships attacked

SECRET

ERIK/FRISELL ~~A~~ Sunk by gunfire
~~Sunk by S/m~~ 57° 25' N
9° 15' W, 0530/19. 34 survivors
landed Stornoway, picked up by
SS COBBERS (FOIC Greenock
1139/19, NOIC Stornoway 0604/20)

35 miles S.W. of St. Kilda.

09.28 GERMAN INTEREST IN MEDITERRANEAN PRECAUTIONS

AMSTERDAM, MAY 1: NEWS OF BRITAIN'S PRECAUTIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN HAS EVOKED INTENSE INTEREST IN BERLIN.

NAZI CIRCLES ARE HOPING AGAINST HOPE THAT ITALY WILL BE DRAWN INTO THE WAR AND THE NEWS INCREASED THE HOPE ALREADY AROUSED THERE BY THE NEWS OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO BERLIN.

SOME GERMAN MILITARY EXPERTS, HOWEVER, HAVE ON RECENT OCCASIONS EXPRESSED DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER THE STRATEGIC POSITION OF GERMANY WOULD REALLY BE IMPROVED IF HOSTILITIES WERE OPENED ON THE ITALIAN FRONT.

DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN HOLLAND WERE LAST NIGHT NOT OF THE OPINION THAT ITALY WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN WAR FOR THE PRESENT.

B-2 --REUTER

FOREIGN STATIONS. 19.5.40
Sunday

America & West Indies

VAN KINSBERGEN — Dutch cruiser, placed by Dutch Govt. under orders of C-in-C A & W I. Desirable she should proceed to sea as soon as a task can be assigned (D.O.C.(F) 1606/19)

SECRET

JERVIS BAY
PENZANCE

JERVIS BAY, Ocean Escort and PENZANCE Local Escort left Bermuda 19th. May (Capt. i/c Bermuda to Adty. 1453/19)

12.10.

...2...G W R MEETING (11.50)...

"THE SO-CALLED 'UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL' REMINDS MEN LESS OF THE ROCKET THAN THE STOCK.

"WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT IF THERE HAD BEEN NO WAR OUR FIGURES FOR 1939 WOULD HAVE BEEN AS GOOD AS IN 1937 WHEN WE EARNED OVER FOUR PER CENT ON OUR ORDINARY STOCK.

"MOREOVER, IF WE HAD NOT BEEN SUBJECT AFTER THE DECLARATION OF WAR TO THE TERMS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT BUT HAD BEEN OPERATING AS AN ORDINARY UNDERTAKING, UNCONTROLLED AND SUBJECT ONLY TO THE EXCESS PROFITS TAX, THE SUM AVAILABLE FOR DIVIDENDS WOULD HAVE BEEN STILL GREATER.

"THESE CONSIDERATIONS MAKE IT PLAIN THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE LARGE AMOUNT OF EXTRA WORK WE HAVE DONE AND THE GREATLY INCREASED SERVICES WE HAVE RENDERED WE HAVE NOT SOUGHT TO DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN WITH THE TAXPAYER".

CH-1 REUTER

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS.
East Indies.

19
~~15~~.5.1940
~~Tuesday.~~
~~Wednesday~~
Sunday

~~Mediterranean Concentration~~ ~~ROROUAL arrived Suez (SBNO Suez Canal 1017/15)~~
~~Left 1738 (SBNO Suez Canal 1718/15)~~

Italian Army & Air Force mobilisation

immediate
H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East inform me (general mobilisation of army and air force in Italian East Africa has been ordered (C-in-C, East Indies to Adty. 09312/19, ~~Repeated~~ FOC Malta & C-in-C Med 0631/19)

Red Sea Force.

Re. Adty. 0035/18 and C-in-C Med. 0401/19. (I) Initial strength of Red Sea Force would be very weak for its war task and even later it will not have strength expected (M00697/39 31/12/1939) (II) Cruisers are no proper substitute for destroyers, should like to keep LIVERPOOL, GLOUCESTER, HOBART, LEANDER until destroyers arrive Aden, when GLOUCESTER and LEANDER would be released. (III) If above proposal approved intend to escort EAGLE with SYDNEY to Suez and with 2 other cruisers to 20½N as arranged by FOC 4CS (C-in-C ET 09442/19) My 0944/19 para (I) Neither GLOUCESTER nor LEANDER could be released on arrival of destroyers at Aden if convoys are then running and CARLISLE and sloops have not arrived, since 3 cruisers will be required with each convoy to provide adequate AA fire (C-in-C ET ~~Repeated~~ 09242/19)

UNDER THE LIMITATION OF DIVIDENDS BILL, THE [illegible]
WHICH IS PUBLISHED TODAY, NEW COMPANIES MAY PAY A MAXIMUM
DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER CENT ON ORDINARY SHARES.

THE BILL'S PROVISIONS ARE LARGELY ON THE LINES
OUTLINED BY SIR JOHN SIMON AS CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER IN
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, ON APRIL 25, WHEN HE EXPLAINED
CERTAIN ASPECTS OF HIS BUDGET PROPOSALS. REUTER
CH-1

10.43. FRENCH COMMUNIQUE

.....P A R I S, MAY 16.....FOLLOWING IS TODAY'S FRENCH
COMMUNIQUE:

"FROM THE REGION OF NAMUR TO THAT OF SEDAN THE BATTLE HAS
TAKEN ON THE CHARACTERISTIC OF OPEN WARFARE WITH THE
PARTICIPATION ON BOTH SIDES OF THE MOTORISED UNITS AND OF THE

-7-

FOREIGN STATIONS.
Mediterranean.

19.5.40
~~Friday~~
Sunday

SECRET

French Warships Movements

French cruiser MONTCALM passed Gibraltar west to east, French destroyers BRESTOIS and BOULONNAIS arrived Gibraltar from west 0600 French sloop LA CURIEUSE sailed eastwards 1030. (S.O. Gibraltar 1812/19)

S/M Patrol

Not considered necessary in view of Adty Message 0003/15 ~~May~~. S/M's are at two hours notice. (C-in-C Med. 0421/19)

No more tankers to proceed North through Red Sea at present. In order not to delay destroyers whose arrival at Aden is urgent, southbound M/V's are to be held at Suez pending further orders (Adty to C-in-C, ~~East Indies~~ 0010

Cruisers and EAGLE.

Re Adty 0035/18 para 4. Concur in Adty suggestions re ultimate allocation of cruisers if C-in-C has no objections. Para 5. Concur re EAGLE (C-in-C Med. 0409/19)

Italian ~~Army~~ African & Air Force mobilisation

Foc Malta to C-in-C 0631/19 re East Indies.

THE 'STOCKHOLMS TIDNINGEN' COMMENTS THAT WHILE ANY EXCHANGE REGULATIONS MUST NATURALLY CAUSE SOME INCONVENIENCE, THE NEW SYSTEM HAS BEEN SO CAREFULLY WORKED OUT THAT IT IS HOPED A MINIMUM OF INCONVENIENCE WILL RESULT.

IN CONNEXION WITH REPORTS PUBLISHED ABROAD THAT THE NEW MEASURES SIGNIFY THE ABANDONMENT BY SWEDEN OF THE GOLD STANDARD, IT IS POINTED OUT HERE, THAT SWEDEN, LIKE GREAT BRITAIN, SUSPENDED THE GOLD STANDARD IN 1931. THE SWEDISH KRONA WAS THEN LINKED TO THE £ STERLING.

WHEN WAR BROKE OUT LAST SEPTEMBER, THE KRONA WAS PEGGED TO THE AMERICAN DOLLAR INSTEAD OF TO STERLING.

VARIOUS CONCERNS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE TRANSFERRED LARGE SUMS TO AMERICA DURING THE AUTUMN.

ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO, HOWEVER, THE RIKSDAG IMPOSED UNOFFICIALY CONTROL BY REFUSING TO SELL FOREIGN EXCHANGE UNLESS THE PROSPECTIVE BUYERS COULD PROVE THAT IT WAS REQUIRED FOR AN APPROVED PURPOSE.

THIS UNOFFICIAL ACTION HAS NOW BEEN MADE LAW BY THE ADOPTION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES BY THE RIKSDAG YESTERDAY. --REUTER

B-2

FOREIGN STATIONS

SECRET

19.5.40
Sunday

Mediterranean.

Iron Ore. With stoppage of Swedish supplies 2/3 of our iron ore requirements are being met from N. Africa amounting to 300,000 tons a month. The figure for June will rise to 450,000 tons, average 12 ships a week for May and 16 in June. Alternative supplies difficult to arrange. Principal export ports are Bona, La Goulette, and Algiers, 50% of total comes from Bona. Other essential imports from N. Africa. Route thus vital to us. What arrangements have you made with French for inclusion of British ships in French convoys; are you satisfied these will be adequate in view of greatly increased importance of this route. (VCNS 0533/19 to C-in-C Med.)

~~OSWALD, H.M. Trawlers SINDONIS and KINGSTON CORAL, and French sloop SIDI OKBA arrived Alexandria 19th. May. (S.O. (I) Alexandria 1131/19)~~

re CHABAR
KLAGENFURT

C-in-C, Med. 2345/19

PROVENCE
BRETAGNE

and destroyers. French propose to withdraw them from Alexandria to Bizerta. We have concurred. Understood that SUFFREN will proceed to Alexandria and DUPLEIX-TROUVIN will also be sent there from Western Basin, for troop transport duties (DOD(F) 1639/19)

NORWEGIAN RESISTANCE HAVE BEEN BROKEN. PART OF A NORWEGIAN INFANTRY REGIMENT SURRENDERED NEAR VINJE. CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES OF WAR MATERIAL, ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES HAVE BEEN SEIZED.

"ON THE WESTERN FRONT AN ATTACK BY AN ENEMY SHOCK DETACHMENT SOUTH OF SAARLAUTERN (SAARLOUIS) WAS REPULSED, AND CONSIDERABLE LOSSES WERE INFLICTED". --REUTER.

S-2

12.05 DEATH OF AMERICAN JOURNALIST. MAY 8.

THE BODY OF MR WEBB MILLER, DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN

FOREIGN STATIONS 19.5.40
Sunday

SECRET
South Atlantic.

Aguilhas minefield — No further mines reported. Minesweepers temporarily with trawlers fuel &c. and reorganise with others from up the coast. Strong westerly gale blowing. Minesweepers expected to sweep 100% in vicinity 20/5 (NOIC Simonstown 1828/19)

Enemy Ship — D/F bearings Admty 1526 15th. May indicate probability enemy ship in square K one. CUMBERLAND to proceed to [redacted] 026° 00' S. 005° 00' E. and search, arriving Simonstown not later than P.M. Friday 24th. May (C-in-C, S.A. to Cumberland 1051/19)

12.37. THE EGYPTIAN COTTON SITUATION MAY 17.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS NOT AT THE MOMENT CONSIDERING MAKING ANY "RESCUE" PURCHASE OF EGYPTIAN COTTON. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT THE LAST QUOTATION ON THE ALEXANDRIA COTTON BOURSE BEFORE ITS RECENT CLOSURE WAS NOT AS LOW AS THE PRICE AGREED LAST NOVEMBER AT WHICH SUCH "RESCUE" PURCHASES SHOULD BE EFFECTED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE POSSIBILITY IS THOUGHT TO EXIST THAT, IN THE EVENT OF THE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES APPROACHING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SOME SUCH PURCHASE NOW, THE APPEAL WOULD NOT BE IGNORED. --REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

19.5.40
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS
North Atlantic

ASTURIAS
CHESHIRE

ASTURIAS and CHESHIRE to leave patrol without relief to arrive Casablanca 1400 and 1600 respectively on 21st. May. After watering there to sail to arrive Gibraltar 0730 and 0830 respectively 23rd. May. CORINTHIA and PATROCLUS will be relieved 27th. May and DERBYSHIRE on 3rd. June
C.F.O.C.N.A 1332/19

NEW YORK, MAY 8: THE GERMAN WIRELESS IS STILL EXPLOITING THE "BALKANS WAR BOGY" ACCORDING TO A BROADCAST INTERCEPTED BY THE COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM THIS MORNING.

THE GERMAN PRESS "REGARDS AN ALLIED ATTACK IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE AS IMMINENT", THE ANNOUNCER DECLARED.

THE BRITISH AND FRENCH WAR COUNCILS WOULD PUT THE FINAL TOUCHES TO THE ALLEGED PLAN OF ATTACK AND THEN ISSUE FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE ALLIED ARMY OF THE NEAR EAST UNDER GENERAL WEYGAND.

THE BROADCAST DISCLOSED THAT THE GERMAN PRESS WAS STILL PLAYING UP THE NAZI PROPAGANDA STORY (OFFICIALLY DENIED IN LONDON AND PARIS) OF AN ALLEGED CONVERSATION OF APRIL 30 BETWEEN MR CHAMBERLAIN AND M. REYNAUD IN WHICH "THE ORDERED ACTION" WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED.

"THE ALARM CLOCKS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN ARE SHRIEKING LOUDER AND LOUDER", THE ANNOUNCER IS REPORTED AS SAYING.

S-2 --REUTER.

FOREIGN STATIONS. 19.5.40

SECRET

North Atlantic.

Cables cut — Cables recently reported as broken but suspected of being cut in 3 positions. 100 miles N of Lisbon, 50 miles S of Lisbon, 170 miles W of Gibraltar. Spanish trawlers purchased by Germans are suspected of being engaged in this work. Close watch to be kept on trawlers, particularly those flying Spanish flag (D of P 1621/19 to ROC N A)

Contraband Control of Spanish Shipping — Chargé d'Affaires Madrid is representing to F.O. the undesirability of tightening up Contraband Control of Spanish shipping between Spanish ports as proposed by ~~telegram~~ F.O. telegram 0216 Arfor 16 May. I agree and submit most important to reconsider (N.A. Madrid to D.N.I. 2021 [illegible])

Italian Tankers. — Report by signal average detention during last eight weeks of Italian Tankers whose release has been authorised by M.E.W. before arrival "subject to verification of cargo".

(DEWD 1640/19, to CCSO 5th)

FOREGOING THE USUAL CELEBRATIONS OF MAY DAY.

: 8, ,4-,: 5£34 28)) ?3 ,9 8,54470589, 9! 294:, IN ACCORDANCE LITH A DECI ION BH THE C.G.T. (THE FRENCH TRADES UNION V CONGRESSGLM

M. REYNAID THE FRNCH PREMIER WILL BROADCAST TO THE NATION AT 7.30 P.M.

GERMANY'S FIRST WARTIME LABOUR DAY WILL BE MARKED BY STRIKING DIFFERENCES AS COMPARED WITH NAZI MAY DAY FESTIVALS OF THE PAST.

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HE CAME TO POWER, HITLER WILL REFRAIN FROM MAKING A SPEECH TO CELEBRATE THE DAY.

THE ONLY SPEECH SCHEDULED FOR TODAY IS THAT WHICH HITLER'S PARTY DEPUTY, RUDOLF HESS, IS MAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE KRUPP WORKS AT ESSEN.

THIS SPEECH, WHICH IS NOT EXPECTED TO CONT

IN ANY SENSATIONS,

WILL BE BROADCAST TO THE GERMAN NATION AT 5.30 B.S.T.

IN ROME THE ITALIAN CABINET IS HOLDING ITS REGULAR MONTHLY

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS 19.5.40.

HUSSAR Arrived (FOIC Tyne 2005/19)

WESTMINSTER Tow towed from Dunkirk to Portsmouth 20/5 (VA Dover 1846/19, D000 1911/19)

WHITLEY Bombed Cleethorpes (06' 7 miles East of Newport. Total loss. 4 E.R. ratings lost. (see air) (DC 1954/19, VIMIERA 0832/19)

SECRET

PRINCESS VICTORIA Put in & wreck 2150 Humber L.V. 5.3 cables. (FO Humber 2228/19) Returning from laying mines in E. Coast Barrier was mined 2330/18 and sunk off Humber. (DC0757/19)

YESTERDAY, MOST OF THEM BEING DESTCOYED."

S-1 --REUTER.

T20.06 ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE. MAY 11.

AN ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES:

THE FLEET AIR ARM HAVE MADE TWO FURTHER ATTACKS ON THE ENMY AT BERGEN. IN ONE ATTACK NAVAL AIRCRAFT OBTAINED THREE HITS ON AN ENEMY WARSHIP BELIEVED TO BE THE BRONSE.

IN THE SECOND, A COMPLETE SURPRISE WAS ACHIEVED. ENEMY FUEL TANKS WERE ATTACKED AND HEAVILY DAMAGED. TWO OF THE LARGEST WERE SET ON FIRE AND FLAMES WERE SEEN TO SPREAD.

HOME COMMANDS. 19.5.40 Sunday

SECRET

Miscellaneous.

Weather.

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	S. moderate in North. NNE moderate in South	Mainly good. Local mist patches.	Similar
Channel	Easterly, light.	Moderate or good	Wind variable
W. Approaches	SSE moderate	Good	Similar
Horns Reef	NE moderate	Good	Similar
Norwegian Coast	Variable light in South, SW moderate in North.	Good.	Similar.
Dutch Coast.	NE moderate or light.	Mainly good. Local mist patches	Similar.

AN AUTHORATIVE SPOKESMAN TOLD REUTER. MOST OF [illegible]

SO FAR HAS BEEN IN THE AIR", HE ADDED.

LONDON MILITARY CIRCLES STRESS THE POINT THAT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS THE ENEMY WILL TRY TO CAUSE AS MUCH CONFUSION AS POSSIBLE BY SPREADING FLASE INFORMATION REGARDING THE FIGHTING IN THE LOW COUNTRIES. --REUTER

CH-1 " "

13.43. RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT RESIGNS

.....BUCHAREST, MAY 11.....M. TATARESCU'S GOVERNMENT RESIGNED AT MIDDAY TODAY. KING CAROL HAS ASKED M. TATARESCU

19.5.40

SECRET

Miscellaneous

LONDONDERRY Felt very slight impact 55°13·6'N 10 18·41' W 1645/17 no damage. Presumably submerged wreck. Nothing seen. (C.C. Rosyth 1659/19)

Suspicious Ships. At 1200 two small floating mines observed in position NFDN 5132 in wake of Belgian fishing vessel Z 30 and in path of leave boat which just missed mines. Photographs taken of vessel which proceeded to Boulogne. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1335/19) Later report is that she passed Boulogne without stopping (I.C. 0456/40)

LIBANON..7/- AFCN EUPN..18/1-1/2 CENT MINING..12-1/4

WESTN HLDGS..10/6 NEW CENT WIT..1/-

INDUSTRIALS: BAB WILCX..40/- BASS RAT..115/6 BRIST AIR..12/6

BT PLASTER..9/- BT PRT CMNT..2-11/16 DE LA RUE..47/6

CARRERAS B..10/9 CORY..79/4-1/2 CNY LDN ELC..32/6

CRITTALL..7/- DORMAN LONG..21/3 EVR RDY..24/- FAIREY..14/3

GALLAHER..4-3/4 GEN REFRACT..9/3 GUINNESS..76/- HARRODS..31/3

HARRODS B A..5/6 H LEVIS ORD..15/- IND COOPE..67/-

INT TEA..10/6 LEYLAND..3-1/4 LDN BRICK..29/6 METAL BOX..71/3

METRO ELEC..33/6 MUREX..3-3/4 PATON B..56/3

RADIATION..23/- RALEIGH C..55/- SHORT BROS..23/- SIEMENS..21/9

SPILLERS DF..46/- SWED MCH B..6/3 BIRMID IND..48/9

INDIAN IRON..47/6

INTERNATIONALS: INT TEL..2-3/4

OILS: APEX TRIN..26/6 ATTOCK..33/9 CAN EAGLE..6/6

CLEVELAND D..17/-

MINES: AMAL BNKT..4/3 BERALT..7/- CHAMP RF..33/9

MARLU..6/9 MAWCHI..31/3 MYSORE..23/9 NUNDYDROOG..26/3

GLD CST BK..2/-

RAILS: B A PAC..2-1/2 B A WESTN..5 CORD CNT IST DEBS..68

ASSURANCE: ATLAS ASS..11-1/4 N BRIT..8-7/8 PEARL..14-1/2

ROYAL EX..7-1/2

S-CH ---REUTER.

19.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

British Air Activity.	At 0415 this morning our A/c attacked four trawlers flying Danish colours 84 miles 304° from Horns Reef Light Vessel apparently without result

Trondjhem Reconnaissance A/c over VAERNESS Aerodrome Trondjhem reports approximately two hundred enemy ~~medium bombers~~ A/C. on aerodrome of which 140 are medium bombers. Intermediate landing ground noticed at SURENDALEN. (D.D.I.C. 1424/14)

Wilhelmshaven Photographic reconnaissance on 19th. May shows TIRPITZ fitting out LUTZOW ex DEUTSCHLAND in dock, three Destroyers, seven M.V's (I.C. 0456/40)

Bremerhaven Photographic reconnaissance 19th. May shows no unusual activity (I.C. 0456/40)

OBTAINED.

WHERE A RESIDENT W
SECURITIES MEMBERS OF T
THAT THE TREASURY ARE S
1...THE CUSTOMER
IN THE TERMS OF SECTIO
RESIDENT OR ENEMY INTE
MUST BE SUPPORTED BY T
APPOINTED TO APPROVE F
LONDON, THE ASSOCIATED
OR THE PROVINCIAL BROK
2....THE AMOUNTS
ACCOUNTS ONLY.

SHOULD ANY NON-RE
APPLICATION MUST BE MA
TO GRANT AN ADVANCE".

CH-1

HOME COMMANDS

19.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

Shipping.

French Convoy.
Ocean Convoys

Position Noon/19. (Adty. to C-in-C. W.A. 0128/19)
Positions (DC 1859/19)

Convoy FR 2.

CHENONCEAUX and MEXIQUE escorted by SALADIN and JASON leave Greenock 2300 19th May.
FOUDROYANT to relieve JASON at 0400 20th. May at 55°00'N. 5°25'W. and JASON then returns to Clyde (F.O. Greenock to Foudroyant 1845/19)

AUSTIN..15/- BATS..4-3/4 BALDWIN..4/7-1/2

BLEACHERS..3/3 BOOTS..37/3 BOWATER..4/-

BT ALUM..44/9 BT ALUM..44/9 BT ROPES..4/4-1/2

J BROWN..27/- C W PREF..96 C W ORD..50-1/2

COATS..34/3 COLVILLE..21/6 COURTLDS..33/9

CROMPTN..15/9 DSTLLRS..62/- DUNLP..32/10-1/2

FURNESS W..15/6 GAU BRIT..2/- GEN ELEC..78/6

HADFLDS..23/9 HAWKER SIDD..10/6 HUDSNS BAY..20/-

IMP CHEM..29/9 IMP TOB..5-7/32 MARKS S..38/-

MORRIS..25/9 P O DEF..20/- PARNALL..4/-

PINCHIN J..19/6 PRESSED STL..14/6 RLLS RYC ..4-3/16

STH DRHM STL..30/- STAND MTRS..10/6 STEEL BRRL..5/6

STEW LLYDS D..43/- SUDANS..26/6 TATE LYLE..50/9

R THOMAS..2/4-1/2 TRIPLEX..19/4-1/2 B S A..21/7-1/2

TURNER N..64/3 UNILVR..25/3 UNTD STEEL..21/9

UNTD MLSSES..24/6 VCKRS..16/1-1/2 WATNEY..45/-

WEARDALE D..34/3 WHTEHD IRN..3-3/8 WOOLWRTH..55/4-1/2

STRAND ELEC..2/-

OILS:

ANG IRAN..2-13/32 BURMAH..3-5/16 LOBITOS..1-11/16

MEX EAGLE..4/4-1/2 RYL DTCH..22-1/2 SHELL TRANS..3-1/32

TRIN LEASE..3-11/16 VOC..1-9/32

FOREIGNERS:

4% ARG MXD..95 4-1/2% ARG 1934..89

SECRET

19.5.40
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

~~A ship was mined bearing 220° from Humber L.V. last night (I.C. 0455/40)~~

Enemy Mines Shipwash — Possible a/c mines reported in 52°03'N 01°46'E (I.C. 0455/40)

Enemy Mines The Downs — Magnetic mines were laid in the Downs (I.C. 0455/40)

Dieppe — Port closed by magnetic mines eleven dropped two detonated. French N.O. i/c states Havre Sweeper expected (NCSO Dieppe to Admty. 0125/19)

Treport — Report of a parachute mine off Treport 50°03·5'N 01°22·5'E at 1250/19 ~~May~~ (I.C. 0456/40)

Dieppe (cont'd) — Magnetic mines very probably dropped at 2200/19. Ships all traffic destined to Dieppe. Recd. from Admiral Cmdg. N. Le Havre. (DSTO Le Havre 2350/18)

MINING

Dieppe. French authorities consider that port will be closed for 4 days. Special sweepers arriving 19/5 from Havre (NCSO Dieppe 1137/19)

BE FOUND IN THE TOWN AND THE FACTORITES WERE WORKING TH
AGAIN, THE ANNOUNCER SAID. THE AVACUATED TOWNSPEOPLE
HAD RETURNED, IT WAS STATED.

IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT ACCORDING TO A STOCKHOLM
MO, A TOWN IN CENTRAL NORWAY SOME 100 MILES SOUTH-WEST
OF OSLO, HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY GERMAN TROOPS. --REUTE

14.48 ALLIES INCREASE PRESSURE ON NARVIK.

BERLIN, MAY 7: AN ADMISSION THAT THE PRESSURE OF THE
FRANCO-BRITISH FORCES IN NARVIK HAS INCREASED IN THE
[illegible] FEW DAYS IS MADE IN TODAY'S WAR COMMENTARY PUB

HOME COMMANDS 19.5.40
Sunday.

SECRET

~~Anti-Invasion measures Coastal~~
Mining.

Sweeping of French ports. Following additional forces to operate under V.A.Dover primarily to assist in keeping important French ports open.
LL Trawlers LORD GREY, CLYTHNESS, LORD INCHCAPE, RIFNESS on completion of present operation. DAROGAH and SUNLIGHT. M.D. ship CORFIELD. CORBURN for Le Havre, trials to be hastened. Comdr. Peterson will act as M/S.L.O. (OMS 1351/19)

Area between Goodwin Fork and Deal Bank Buoys in which 2 mines were reported dropped last night has been searched. Report considered very doubtful (VADover 1954/19)

Operation B56 To be carried out 20/5 or as soon after as practicable. Positions &c. (VCNS 1159/19)

17.40 COMMONS FLASH MAY 7.

THAT MR ATTLEE AT ONCE PLUNGED INTO CRITICISM IN CONSIDERABLE D ~~K~~AIL SHOWS THAT THE SPEECH HAD NOT MOVED THE OPPOSITION IN THE LEAST.

MINISTERIAL CHEERS WERE NOT QUITE AS VOCIFEROUS AT THE FINISH AS AT THE START OF THE SPEECH.

MR ATTLEE'S CRITICISMS WERE INTERRUPTED TO SOME EXTENT FROM THE MINISTERIAL SIDE. --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS 19.5.40
Sunday.

SECRET

Mining.

a/c mines — Possible a/c mines reported near 5203' N 1046' E (C.C. Note 0338/19)

Dunkirk Roads — Area dangerous due to mines 0800/19 (Cherbourg 0805/19) Note. The port is closed.

~~Havre — Fixed (se air) (Seaplanes~~

15.28 AMERICANS NOT WARNED TO LEAVE BRITAIN. MAY 16.

NO WARNING HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN LONDON TO AMERICANS TO LEAVE BRITAIN.

THIS WAS STATED AT THE EMBASSY TODAY AND IT WAS ADDED THAT THEY HAD NO COMMENTS TO MAKE ON REPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF A GENERAL WARNING TO AMERICAN IN EUROPE TO LEAVE FOR HOME IMMEDIATELY.

MANY AMERICANS IN BRITAIN ARE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WHICH STATED THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY ANY OF ITS MEMBERS WOULD LEAVE AT PRESENT, AS MOST ARE INTIMATELY CONNECTED WITH BUSINESS IN THIS COUNTRY. --REUTER.

S-1

15.31 IRREGULAR OPENING ON WALL STREET.

NEW YORK, MAY 16: THE TENDENCY AT THE OPENING OF WALL STREET THIS MORNING WAS QUIETLY IRREGULAR.

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.

~~Air~~ Mining

~~Enemy Air Activity~~.

~~25~~.5.1940
~~Thursday~~ Friday
~~Saturday~~ Sunday

Humber approach Channel

Sperrin to Humber L.V. closed to traffic until further orders (on account of mining of PRINCESS VICTORIA) (Fo Humber 0135/19)

18.03 DUTCH FRONTIER TROOPS' MAGNIFICENT MORALE.

EYEWITNESS STORY OF SCENE NEAR ARNHEIM.

OPS AMSTERDAM, MAY 10: THE MAGNIFICENT MORALE OF THE DUTCH TR
IN COMING TO GRIPS WITH GERMAN SOLDIERS IN THE REGION OF ARNHEIM
IS DESCRIBED BY AN EYEWITNESS ARRIVING IN AMSTERDAM THIS AFTERNOON.

HE REACHED HERE AFTER A THRILLING JOURNEY IN ONE OF THE LAST
TRAINS TO LEAVE ARNHEIM.

"AFTER THE LONG PERIOD OF NERVOUS TENSION", HE DECLA

HOME COMMANDS.

SECRET

19.5.40
Sunday.

Air.

Enemy air activity.

~~WHITSHED reported having destroyed an aircraft attacking a convoy off North Foreland at 1730/19. (DCNS)~~

WHITLEY bombed 60°2 miles off Nieuport at 0526. Both boiler rooms flooded, ship's back broken. Guns and equipment understood salvable. VIMIERA and tugs attempting to salve. D19 should be there by nav altn. LADY BRASSEY and Salvage Officer sent ~~HR~~. 4 E.R. ratings lost. (VIMIERA 0832/19, VADOVER 1112/19) Set on fire heavily forward by gunfire from KEITH. Owing other position ashore cannot guarantee complete destruction A/S under water fittings. Suggest bombing by a/c. Position 51°9'N 2040'E (Capt. D 19 1312/19)

PAST FEW DAYS IS MADE IN FUHRER'S WAR COMMENTARY PUBLISHED
BY THE GERMAN OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY.

TROOPS WERE LANDED NORTH OF NARVIK AND THE GERMAN POSITIONS WERE REPEATEDLY ATTACKED.

THESE ATTACKS WERE REPULSED, BUT IT IS DECLARED THE GERMAN ADVANCE POSTS HAVE HAD A HEAVY TASK FOR WEEKS, AS THEY ABOVE ALL HAVE HAD TO BEAR THE INCREASED PRESSURE OF THE ENEMY.

IN SPITE OF THE BOMBARDMENTS OF NARVIK REPEATEDLY EFFECTIVE BY BRITISH NAVAL FORCES, THE SITUATION THERE IS DESCRIBED AS UNCHANGED.

THE GERMAN AIR FORCE, IT IS SAID, HAS PLAYED AN INCREASING PART IN LAND ATTACKS AND HAS ALSO SUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED ENEMY NAVAL FORCES IN THE NORTHERN FJORDS. --REUTER.

HOME COMMAND 19.5.40
Sunday.

SECRET

Air.

Enemy air activity.

WHITSHED — Bombed 097 N. Foreland 29 (WHITSHED 1731/19) By 3 a/c's (WHITSHED 1739/19

and — ~~One~~ enemy a/c damaged (WHITSHED 1745/19)

Convoy — Convoy is being attacked 097 North Foreland 29 (WHITSHED 1735/19 + 1737/19) Fighters have been sent (C in C Nore 1749/19)

A/c gone, no damage to WHITSHED, VENOMOUS or convoy (WHITSHED 1755/19)

Seaplane shot down — 106° NFL 12 (VENOMOUS 2345/19 Fighters are being sent to you (VAD over 0035/20 to VENOMOUS)

Havre — A/c dropping bombs and magnetic mines in Carros Road near Le Havre (Scapa W/T T.O.R. 0028/20 + C in C Portsmouth 2328/19)

THROUGH OUR FRONT, DISORGANISE OUR FORCES AND PASS THROUGH IN MASS WITH HIS MOTORISED UNITS AND INFANTRY FROM THE VERY FIRST MOMENT, THAT IS TO SAY ON THE EVENING OF WEDNESDAY. HE FAILED TO DO SO AND HIS PLAN HAS THEREFORE MET WITH A BIG CHECK ... WHICH IS ALREADY AN ADVANTAGE TO US." --REUTER

B-2

09.42. WIDE APPROVAL FOR ROOSEVELT'S DEFENCE MESSAGE

.....W A S H I N G T O N, MAY 17.....THE VEY FAVOURAPLE RECEPTIONS GIVEN TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S DEFENCE MESSAGE IS SHOWN IN THE COMMENTS OF LEADING CONGRESSMEN.

TYPICAL REMARKS WERE:

SECRET

19. 5. 40
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity. At 0415 this morning our A/c attacked four trawlers flying Danish colours 84 miles 304° from Horns Reef L.V. apparently without result (Dornbirstle 0705/19)

Attack on Vaernes Aerdrome. Hte carried out night 19/20 by 2 battle flights of Hudsons (DC 1702/19)

WASHINGTON, MAY 8. A PROTEST FROM BLACK AND YATES, INC., OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, IMPORTERS OF PHILIPPINE MAHOGANY, AGAINST ALLEGED "INTERFERENCE" BY THE BRITISH NAVAL AUTHORITIES WITH AN AMERICAN CARGO ON ITS WAY FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THE EAST IN DANISH SHIPS, WAS RECEIVED BY MR CORDELL HULL, THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE LAST NIGHT.

THE IMPORTERS DECLARE THAT THE DANISH SHIPS - THE ANNA MAERSK AND NIEL MAERSK - THE A CARGO CONSIGNED TO THEM, ARE BEING HELD UP AT CRISTOBAL, PANAMA CANAL ZONE, AND THE PHILIPPINES RESPECTIVELY.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAY THAT THE MATTER IS BEING GIVEN CAREFUL ATTENTION AND EVERY STEP IS BEING TAKEN TO PROTECT UNITED STATES INTERESTS. --REUTER.

S-1

HOME COMMANDS 19.5.40
Sunday

Air.

SECRET

British air activity.

3 grimsby trawlers trawling, 2 Danish fishing smacks circled by DO 18 which was attacked by our a/c. The fishing smacks also fired at our a/c and were bombed. ~~[illegible]~~ 54° 50' N 2° 0' E
(Dan Cristle 2132/19)

12.45 MR CHURCHILL INPARIS.

PARIS, MAY 17: IT IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT MR WINSTON CHURCHILL HAS BEEN TO PARIS, WHERE HE IMMEDIATELY WENT INTO CONFERENCE WITH M. REYNAUD, M. DALADIER AND GENERAL GAMELIN.

S-2 --REUTER.

12.46. AMPLIFICATION OF...GERMANS LAUNCH NEW ATTACK (11.59)...

SUMMING UP THE SITUATION IN GENERAL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT YESTERDAY CLOSED ON A RELATIVELY FAVOURABLE IMPRESSION, ACCORD

HOME COMMANDS

19.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

Submarines

Positions 0600/20. (Adty 2127/14) (V.A.S. 1838/14)

TO ALL ARMY REPORTS.

THERE WAS NO REALLY IMPORTANT OPERATION YESTERDAY NORTH OF THE SAMBRE.

SOUTH OF THE SAMBRE, TODAY'S COMMUNIQUE GAVE THE FIRST GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS OF THE EXTENT OF THE SALIENT CREATED BY THE ENEMY.

THERE WAS NOW A SALIENT FROM THE SAMBRE IN THE NORTH TO A POINT NORTH OF RETHEL IN THE SOUTH, AND STRETCHING EASTWARDS TO SEDAN.

THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT SALIENT, SAID THE SPOKESMAN, AND THE FIRST THING TO DO WHEN A SALIENT WAS MADE IN OUR POSITIONS WAS TO RING IT ROUND AND CONTAIN IT BY SENDING UP UNITS TO TAKE UP POSITIONS AND STOP THE ENEMY.

"THEN WE MUST MAKE UP OUR MINDS WHETHER TO COUNTER-ATTACK THERE OR ATTACK ELSEWHERE. THAT IS A JOB FOR THE HIGH COMMAND.

"THE CONTAINING OF THE SALIENT WAS CARRIED OUT YESTERDAY UNDER SATISFACTORY CONDITIONS. UNITS ARE ARRIVING NORMALLY. THE RETHEL-SEDAN SALIENT IS A LITTLE ANNOYING, BECAUSE WE HAVE LOST TERRITORY, BUT STRATEGICALLY WE ARE IN A

SECRET

19.5.40
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

~~Movements~~ Operations ~~Aprvide area.~~ Norway

GLORIOUS, FURIOUS ARK ROYAL — Your 2231/A. Suggest GLORIOUS leave for U.K. forthwith and ARK ROYAL and FURIOUS return in company when Gladiators landed. If approved request arrange destroyer screens (R.A.(A) to F.O. Narvik 1308/19)

CURLEW to provide AA protection — After escorting ROYAL ULSTERMAN to destination CURLEW is available A/A Protection Duty in Narvik area. CALCUTTA leaves Rosyth for Narvik area 23rd. May. CURLEW has Brigadier Fraser on board. (C-in-C H. Fleet to F.O. Narvik 2038/19)

One/two ore ships a week to load at Frickenes. — Attorney 11/4/18 an objection would be probable deed of escort. CS/1 has already allocated one of his 2 A/S trawlers for this duty. Norwegian s/m's might also be used when available (FO Narvik 1607/19)

TRUANT — Patrolling Aff Tromso (TRUANT 1902/19)

Enemy reinforcements — Enemy reinforcements landing behind our lines are conveyed in coastal steamer armed with machine guns and also a/c's. To counter this are taking up Norwegian coastal steamer manned by ~~EFFINGHAMS~~ and local resources. Asking for oerlikon guns and 3 or 6 pdr. guns &c. (RAN Narvik 2025/19)

CH-1 REUTER

17.21. WALL STREET CLOSES NERVOUS

.....N E W Y O R K, MAY 18.....WHOLE BECOMING MORE ORDERLY, THE MARKET ENCOUNTERED ACTIVE WAVES OF NERVOUS SELLING CONVERGING ON STEEL, AIRCRAFT AND MOTOR ISSUES. DEALINGS, HOWEVER, LATER QUIETENED DOWN AS WHEAT, AFTER SLUMPING, RALLIED SHARPLY AND STOCKS - UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF STEELS AND AIRCRAFTS - STIFFENED.

FINAL QUOTATIONS WERE MOSTLY FRACTIONS TO ONE LOWER, WITH A FEW TWO TO FOUR DOWN.

THE CLOSING TONE WAS NERVOUS. REUTER

CH-1

HOME COMMANDS 19.5.40
~~Norway~~ Operations Sunday.
SECRET Norway

ROYAL
ULSTERMAN
refuses to
sail

~~Fighters~~ Troops with d reuring North of Mo urgently need fighter
needed protection. ~~(FOO~~ Comply if possible (Fo Narvik
1253/19 to VA(A)

Withdrawal Withdrawal from Mo commenced this morning. Instructions
from Mo. has been issued to delay enemy by every possible means
in cooperation with Norwegians (NWEF 0210/19)

Raids Norwegians anxious to guard against raids in small
coasting craft at several points simultaneously,
desire provide of armed Norwegian trawlers
and assurance that HM ships within reach
(Fo Narvik 1413/19)

~~Flotilla~~

~~Warwick~~

Convoy N.P. 3.

Three British M/V's escorted by WALKER and PIREDRAKE arrived 0700. Remainder of convoy awaiting orders to enter (F.O. Narvik 1601/19)

A naval crew from capital ships is being sent to take over ROYAL ULSTERMAN this Sunday forenoon and it is now intended to sail her at 1800 after trials in the Flow (C-in-C Home Fleet 0913/19)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN has been temporarily commissioned as H.M. Ship and sailed 1830 19th. May with CURLEW. Expected arrive 18 hours from Andenes 0900 21st. May. (F.O.C.O.S. to F.O. Narvik 1908/19).

ROYAL ULSTERMAN arrived late at Scapa at 1400/18 having proceeded first to Stornoway. Majority of officers and crew refused to sail with ammunition without armament or escort. When CURLEW detailed as escort refusal to sail persisted. Crew were on foreign articles and now in charge of Chief Constable Kirkwall. Request consideration as to measures in any such future cases. (C-in-C. H.F. to Admty. 1956/19)

09.30. FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS IN CANADA

.....OTTAWA, MAY 1.....COLONEL RALSTON, THE CANADIAN FINANCE MINISTER, HAS ANNOUNCED AN ORDER IN COUNCIL WHICH REQUIRES RESIDENT HOLDERS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO SELL THEIR HOLDINGS TO THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL BOARD WITHIN 30 DAYS AT THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES PREVAILING ON THAT DAY.

THESE HOLDINGS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO REQUISITION AND COULD ONLY BE DISPOSED OF THROUGH THE CONTROL BOARD, SINCE

HOME COMMANDS. 19.5.40
Sunday

Operation FA.

Ships are to be withdrawn and join VA Dover's Command (VCNS 1815/19 to VA. Dover)

SECRET

10.03 AUSTRALIA'S RECORD WHEAT CROP. FEB 26.

AUSTRALIA WILL HAVE A RECORD WHEAT HARVEST THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT GIVEN ON THE AUSTRALIAN SHORT-WAVE BROADCAST THIS MORNING.

SO FAR 193,000,000 BUSHELS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED BY THE FARMERS.

WITH THE DELIVERIES STILL TO BE EXPECTED AND THE STOCK WHICH FARMERS WILL STORE FOR THEIR PERSONAL SUPPLY, THE TOTAL WHEAT HARVEST THIS YEAR WILL AMOUNT TO 250,000,000 BUSHELS, IT WAS STATED.

THIS WILL SURPASS THE PREVIOUS OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF THE CROP IS 210,000,000 BUSHELS. THE CROP IN 1933 REACHED 214,000,000 BUSHELS. --REUTER.

S-1

HOME COMMANDS

19.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

Low Countries

Operation Lyster. (DF & EF)

Force is sailing 1400. Expect to arrive 0130/20 (DODC(H) 0200/19 to Air Min.) F.O.D.E. in VEGA reports am proceeding 1320/19 T.O.O. 0300/19 (C-in-C Nore 0830/19)

Drifters NAUTILUS and STARLIGHT RAYS have been ordered to RV with convoy in substitution for WILLING BOYS and MONARDO (DMS 1106/19 to VEGA)

Do not sail. Instructions follow (C-in-C Nore 1158/19 to VEGA)

Operation DF & EF is postponed 24 hours. (BNLO Dunkirk pass to Cdr. Peterson and trawlers RIFNESS and LORD INCHCAPE (VCNS 1308/19 to F.O.D.E. &c.)

11.55 SOME EXPANSION OF BUSINESS ON STOCK EXCHANGE. MAY 8.

THERE IS RATHER MORE GENERAL BUSINESS TODAY, THE BULK OF WHICH IS, HOWEVER, STILL BEING CONDUCTED IN THE GILT-EDGED MARKET. WAR LOAN IS AROUND 101-1/4, LOCALS 89 AND OLD CONSOLS 76-1/2. CORPORATION AND COLONIAL STOCKS, AS WELL AS THE INDIA LOANS ARE COMING IN FOR ATTENTION.

IN THE KAFFIR MARKET, CAPE AND LOCAL PROFESSIONAL BUYING IS STIMULATING A FEW MORE PUBLIC INQUIRIES. THE DIVIDEND PAYERS AND NON-PRODUCERS ARE BOTH BENEFITING.

THE TONE OF THE OIL MARKET HAS BEEN RATHER ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE SHARP DECLINE IN ROYAL DUTCH TO AROUND 23 NOMINAL.

AMONG INDUSTRIALS, THE LEVER ISSUES HAVE SHED A FEW PENCE AND TOBACCOS ARE OFF COLOUR. OTHERWISE THERE IS LITTLE CHANGE.

BOTH THE RAILWAY MARKETS ARE WITHOUT QUOTABLE ALTERATION AND NO MOVEMENTS OF IMPORTANCE ARE TO BE SEEN IN FOREIGN BONDS.

19.5.40

SECRET

Movements

Destroyers. Allowing organisation and distribution of destroyer forces in Nore Command will be brought into force at 0800/20. (C.in C. Nore 15/6/19)

GOOD POSITION". --REUTER

CH-1

Q12.59 ADD 12.46 - AMPLIFICATION.

SOUTH OF SEDAN, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, EXTREMELY VIOLENT FIGHTING HAD TAKEN PLACE ALL DAY YESTERDAY. "WOODS AND WILLAGES WERE TAKEN AND RE-TAKEN, SOME OF THEM CHANGING HANDS SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DAY, WHICH SHOWS THAT THE FRENCH INFANTRY, WELL SUPPORTED BY ITS ARTILLERY AND TANKS, IS ABLE TO RESIST ANY PRESSURE BY THE ENEMY. THE HARD BATTLE TO THE SOUTH OF SEDAN RESULTED IN NO APPRECIABLE CHANGE IN THE POSITIONS.

"FROM MONTMEDY EASTWARDS THROUGH LORRAINE AND ALSACE THERE IS NOTHING TO REPORT.

19.5.40
Sunday
—

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS

[redacted] Precautions

The Broads and Eastern Estuaries	Request action to extend local defence volunteer organisation to cover waterborne protection against hostile air attack (C-in-C Nore to Admty. 1254/19)
Shetlands A/A Defences	In view of enemy occupation of S. Norway recommend as urgent action increase of A/A defence of Shetlands by ten Bofors light A/A Guns and increase present one and a half troops to one light A/A battery of four troops. (A.C.O.S to Admty. 1831/19)

"THE SITUATION MAY BE THUS SUMMED UP: NO IMPORTANT EVENTS YESTERDAY NORTH OF THE SAMBRE; THE CONTAINING OF THE ENEMY SALIENT WEST OF THE MEUSE; A GREAT DEFENSIVE BATTLE NEAR SEDAN."

S-2 --REUTER.

13.02. STOCK EXCHANGE NOTICE MAY 17.

THE FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE TODAY:

"THE STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS 1940 NO. 708 REQUIRES THAT NO REASON SHALL ACQUIRE OR AGREE TO ACQUIRE AN INTEREST IN SECURITIES UNLESS THE TREASURY ARE SATISFIED THAT ALL PERSONS ALREADY HAVING AN INTEREST IN THE SECURITIES ARE RESIDENT, OR UNLESS THE TREASURY'S PRIOR APPROVAL TO THE TRANSACTION IS OBTAINED

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Holton Heath
Cordite Factory

In view of danger of air and parachute attack consider present defence personnel and equipment totally inadequate. Additional platoon of R.M. urgently required. No A/A searchlights yet provided by army. (C-in-C. Portsmouth 1843/19)

Commandant R.M. Portsmouth instructed to provide platoon (Adty. to C-in-C Portsmouth. 2236/19)

13.15. FRENCH PREMIER RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR

.....P A R I S, MAY 17.....M. REYNAUD TODAY RECEIVED MR. BULLITT, THE U.S. AMBASSADOR, AND SENOR DE LEQUERICA, THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR. --REUTER

CH-1

1 BN 20. THE WESTERN FRONT SITUATION: LONDON APPRAISAL

MAY 17.

IT IS LEARNED IN AUTHORITATIVE QUARTERS THAT AS SOON AS MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL RECEIVED EARLY REPORTS OF THE BATTLE PROCEEDING IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE ENABLING HIM TO APPRECIATE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE POSITION HE FLEW TO PARIS AND HAS SINCE RETURNED TO LONDON. WHILE IN PARIS HE CONFERRED NOT ONLY WITH

19.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Policy

Your telegram of May 17th.

I approve your action in opposing scheme for neutralising North Norway. ~~Your should confirm that His Majesty's Government will not consider it and may find~~ following arguments maybe ussful in persuading Norwegian Government to reject it.

1. Despite spread of war to a closer and more intense battle-field, ~~His Majesty's~~ Gov~~ernment~~ are as determined as beofre to press forward vigorously with the campaign in Norway with ~~the~~ immediate object of capturing Narvik and establishing a secure cover behind which Norwegian Gov~~ernment~~ may function safely.

2. Narvik is ready to fall into our hands and our plans in North Norway are on a fair way to success. Fact that Germans have put forward scheme is evidence of their conviction that they cannot hold out in Narvik and cannot conquer North Norway. To accept scheme now would be to play into German hands and surrender to them by agreement what they cannot win by force of arms.

3. ~~Value of scheme would be nugatory from the start since~~ No possible faith could be put into German assurances to keep their part of ~~the~~ bargain. Example of Czecho-Slovakia is sufficient to show what use Germany makes of a truce or compromise solution.

4. ~~From the larger view-point of the strategy of the war, which should be considered by the Norwegian Government who are now allied to us with the common object of defeating Germany,~~ Campaign in Norway is of ~~the~~ greatest importance since it contains largely superior German forces away from ~~the~~ main field where final decision will be reached. Norway is ~~by~~ no ~~means a~~ side show but a vital element in Allied strategy. France and this country are engaged in life and death struggle with Germany on the Western Front and can reasonably expect Norway to hold on and play her part in encompassing the defeat of Germany.

(~~Foreign~~ Adty. 1948/19 to V.C Thomas, F.O. to Mr Lascelles

17.22 WALL STREET CLOSES STEADIER

.....NEW YORK, MAY 11.....WHILE DISPLAYING CLAMER DEMEANOUR OVER EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS, DEALINGS SLACKENED APPRECIABLY. SUPPORT FOR WAR BABIES, HOWEVER, FAVOURABLY INFLUENCED THE REMAINDER OF THE MARKET.

THE CLOSING TONE WAS STEADIER.

COPPER, STEEL AND AIRCRAFT ISSUES ADVANCED UP TO ONE POINT, BUT ELSEWHERE MOVEMENTS WERE NARROW WITH MOVEMENTS FRACTIONALLY EITHER WAY. A FEW SHARES, HOWEVER, DECLINED ONE TO TWO POINTS. REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

Situation Report

9th 5-1940
Sunday

Casualties.

WHITLEY, destroyed, which was bombed two miles off Newcastle at 0530/19, was set on fire and destroyed by KEITH later in the day.

SOMALI, damaged, arrived at Liverpool from Norway.

14.19 ENEMY FLYING BOAT SHOT DOWN. MAY 10.

THE AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCES THAT WHILE ON PATROL OVER THE NORTH SEA YESTERDAY AIRCRAFT OF THE COASTAL COMMAND ENGAGED TWO ENEMY FLYING BOATS, ONE OF WHICH WAS SHOT DOWN AND THE OTHER SEVERELY DAMAGED. --REUTER.

S-1

SECRET

19.5.1940

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Much enemy air activity took place in the Eastern Channel, Dover Straits and Southern North Sea on the night of the 19th/20th, but all attacks were apparently directed towards the French Coast.

Magnetic mines were laid at Dunkirk, and the harbour was closed. Aircraft were also observed droppingbombs and magnetic mines in Caross Road, near Le Havre. Le Havre was closed, and an escorted convoy from Portsmouth diverted to CherbourgDieppe was mined and bombed during the night. French authorities considered that the port would be closed for about 4 days. There is also a report of a parachute mine off Ostend (50°03·5'N 1°22·5'E)

WHITSHED reported having damaged an aircraft attacking a convoy off North Foreland at 1730/19.

VENEMOUS shot down a seaplane off the Goodwins at midnight, 19th.

GIVEN AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO THE UTTERANCE OF SUCH A

WARNING. REUTER

CH-1

19.47. WALL STREET REPORT

.....N E W Y O R K, MAY 14.....WITH THE DISTURBING WAR NEWS GENERATING BEARISHNESS, THE LEADERS HAVE DECLINED ONE TO FIVE POINTS, AND INTERNATIONAL TEL AND TEL AND DU PONT EIGHT POINTS UNDER HEAVY NERVOUS SELLING, THE UNLOADING OF IMPAIRED MARGIN ACCOUNTS AND FURTHER FOREIGN SELLING, WITH UNCONVINCING RALLIES QUICKLY PETERING OUT AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF WHEAT.

STEEL ISSUES ARE WEAK, IGNORING THE PRONOUNCED STRENGTH

SECRET

Situation Report.

19.5.1940
Sunday

British Air Activity.

Normal patrols were flown, including dawn and dusk and anti-M.T.B. patrols in the north and middle of the North Sea. Moonlight patrols were also flown.

About 200 aircraft having been reported at Vaernes (Trondheim) aerodrome by reconnaissance a/c, of which 140 were bombers and the remainder fighters, a night raid was made on this aerdrome 19th/20th by six Hudsons of the Coastal Command.

A Hudson, east of the Dogger Bank, reported 2 Danish smacks were being circled by a Dornier p.m. 19/5, which the Hudson attacked. The smacks also fired at our aircraft and were bombed.

19.59 DUTCH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE.

THE HAGUE, MAY 11: DUTCH MILITARY HEADQUARTERS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE TODAY:

"FRENCH AND BRITISH TROOPS HAVE COME TO OUR ASSISTANCE AND, SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE NETHERLANDS FORCES, WILL DEFEND OUR NATIONAL TERRITORY.

"OUR FRONTIER TROOPS ARE COURAGEOUSLY FULFILLING THEIR TASK.

"THE DEMOLITIONS PLANNED WERE DULY CARRIED OUT BY THESE TROOPS, WHICH WERE LATER WITHDRAWN.

"AFTER FIERNE ATTACKS BY OUR FORCES LASTING FOUR HOURS A VILLAGE CAPTURED BY THE GERMANS YESTERDAY WAS RETAKEN THE SAME DAY.

"DURING THIS ACTION THE ENTIRE PERSONNEL OF A GERMAN ARMOURED TRAIN WERE WIPED OUT.

"PAMPHLETS IN THE NETHERLANDS LANGUAGE AS WELL AS NETHERLANDS

SITUATION REPORT.

SECRET

19.5.40
Sunday

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean reinforcements.

7 destroyers from Home Ports for the Mediterranean have arrived at Gibraltar. One A/A cruiser and 9 more destroyers are off the coast of Portugal on their way south.

Italian situation.

It is reliably reported ~~that~~ ~~It is believed that~~ the Italian Government has ordered the ~~general~~ immediate mobilisation of the Army and Air Force in Italian East Africa.

~~(F.O.C. Malta to C.-in-C, Mediterranean 0631/19)~~

~~Raiders. The suspicion that an enemy raider is at large in the South Atlantic is further strengthened by the fact that 2 German merchant ships have escaped, one from the Canaries and the other from the Azores, these may be acting as supply ships.~~

CH-1

16.58. AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT MAY 18.

THE AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCES THAT AMONG THE OBJECTIVES ATTACKED BY THE R.A.F. IN GERMANY LAST NIGHT WAS A NUMBER OF LARGE DEPOTS, INCLUDING STORAGE TANKS AT HAMBURG AND BREMEN FROM WHICH THE ENEMY FORCES DERIVE THEIR SUPPLIES OF OIL FUEL.

SEVERAL OF THESE DEPOTS WERE DESTROYED AND OTHERS WERE HEAVILY DAMAGED.

STORAGE TANKS AT BERGEN IN NORWAY WERE ALSO SUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED DURING YESTERDAY. REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

She left at 1800/19 with a Naval crew, escorted by CUKLEW, who is to remain for AA protection in the Narvik area.

Four ships of Convoy NS3 with stores, arrived at Vaagsfiord 0700/19. In order to avoid enemy bombing, the remaining 10 ships stood off, awaiting further orders.

lo: NAZI CRUELTY TO CIVILIANS IN BELGIUM.

BRUS LS, MAY 16: THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PUBLISH A MEMORANDUM ON THE UNPRECEDENTED CRUELTY WITH WHICH THE GERMAN ARMY IS TREATING THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.

PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE REPRODUCED SHOWING IN PARTICULAR HOW GERMAN AEROPLANES HAVE PITILESSLY MACHINE-GINNED PARTIES OF REFUGEES PROCEEDING ALONG THE ROADS.

SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF TOWNS, ALL OF WHICH ARE NOT IN THE FIGHTING ZONE, IS CONTINUING. LOUVAIN HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME A MARTYRED CITY.

THE GERMANS ARE NOT EVEN TRYING TO PRESERVE IMPORTANT FACTORIES SITUATED IN THE ZONES WHICH THEY ARE OCCUPYING IN BELGIUM. IRONWORKS OF THE FIRST IMPORTANCE HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

B-2 --REUTER

SECRET

19-5-40

Situation Report

Low Countries.

The blockship operation was again postponed.

The destroyer WHITLEY was bombed two miles off Ijmuiden at 0530/19 and her back was broken.

All the British forces under Admiral North which had been providing A/A protection off the Belgian Coast have been withdrawn.

SITUATION REPORT 19.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

Norway.

SS ROYAL ULSTERMAN with AA ammunition urgently required in the Narvik area was prevented by trouble with her crew, from leaving Scapa 1200/19 as scheduled. ←

GLORIOUS and FURIOUS are about 100 miles off the Lofoten Is, waiting to fly off their fighter a/c as soon as landing grounds are ready.

16.20 AUSTRALIA'S £18,000,000 WAR LOAN

MELBOURNE, FEB 26: MR P. C. SPENDER, ACTING FEDERAL

CADEASTURER, NOW THE NOBEEN OF B

THE LISTS ON MARCH 1 FOR A WAR LOAN AMOUNTING TO £18,000,000, IT IS LEARNED ON GOOD AUTHORITY.

THE LOAN WILL BEAR TWO INTEREST RATES. THE RATE FOR LONG TERM INVESTMENT WILL BE 3-5/8THS PER CENT. THE SHORT TERM RATE WILL BE SLIGHTLY LOWER.

THE LOAN WILL NOT BE EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAX.

IT IS PROPOSED TO ALLOCATE £8,000,000 OF THE PROCEEDS TO DEFENCE, A SIMILAR SUM TO STATE WORKS AND £2,000,000 TO COMMON-WEALTH WORKS. --REUTER

B-2

SECRET

15
19-X-1940

Situation Report.

Norway.

In the Narvik area progress ~~is being~~ was made to the south east of Bjerkvik, ~~This is~~ as part of a general encirclement of Narvik. The main German force ~~is~~ was reported to be still along the Narvik-Lulea Railway, ~~where they are said to be~~ repairing damage to the railway.

~~In the Ranen Fjord sector~~ A strategic retirement ~~has been~~ was made from Mo, along the road to Bodo (130 miles to the North). The road follows the valley of the Ranen river and offers strong natural facilities for defence. The enemy forces at Elsfjorden, the road terminus south of Hemnes, ~~are~~ were estimated at 3000.

Two enemy aircraft ~~have been~~ were captured at Sandnessjven, near Mosjoen and 18 enemy airmen captured.

~~Four ships of Convoy N.S. 3, with slow, arrived at Vaagsfiord in order to avoid enemy bombing at 0700/19. The remaining 10 ships stood off, awaiting further orders.~~

~~ROYAL ULSTERMAN, with A/A ammunition, escorted by CURLEW, left Scapa at 1800/19 with a wood ship, for Narvik. CURLEW is to remain for A/A protection in the Narvik area.~~

FOREIGN SECURITIES - OUR MAGINOT LINE TO BE JEALOUSLY GUARDED AND ONLY FINALLY SPENT IN THE LAST RESORT.

IT WOULD NOT BE PRUDENT TO ASSUME THAT THE WAR WOULD NECESSARILY BE OVER THIS YEAR AND DISSIPATE OUR RESOURCES AT ONCE.

"WE MUST RELY ON OUR EXPORTS....." HE WENTONE, "WILL IT SUFFICE IF WE SUCCEED IN GETTING BACK TO THE £680 MILLION OF OUR PEAK YEAR, 1929? EVEN THAT WILL NOT FILL THE GAP. MORE AND STILL MORE WILL BE REQUIRED. INDEED A STUPENDOUS TASK AND ONE TO TAX ALL OUR ENERGIES".

THERE WAS NO LACK OF MARKETS IF WE COULD DELIVER THE GOODS QUICKLY AND AT THE RIGHT PRICE. TO INCREASE EXPORTS WE REQUIRED A MUCH LARGER QUANTITY OF RAW MATERIALS.

"CLEARLY THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO RESTRICT HOME CONSUMPTION. THIS MAY CAUSE THE INDIVIDUAL SOME DISCOMFORT. IT MAY HAMPER THE MANUFACTURER WHO ORDINARILY CATERS FOR THE HOME MARKET.

"QUITE FRANKLY THERE WILL HAVE TO BE FURTHER RESTRICTIONS. IN MANY CASES THEY ARE BOUND TO BE DRASTIC.

"I AM SURE THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY WILL ACCEPT THEM CHEERFULLY ONCE THEY UNDERSTAND HOW VITAL THEY ARE.

OF THE PROBLEM OF PRICE, MR HUDSON SAID THAT IN THIS WAR HIGHER FREIGHT RATES AND WAR RISK INSURANCE INCREASED THE COST OF RAW MATERIALS AND GOODS FOR SALE APROAD WHILE MANY

SECRET

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

18.5.1940
Saturday.

S/M's Attacked.

1143 By A/C (49°48'N 5°50'W) no hits (A/C 1143/18) See S/m's report 1132/18.

1205 By a/c 59°26'N 7°37'W. By trawler 1425 (Admiralty
1425 2352/18), A/C 1820/18) Estimate no hits (a/c
1205/18)

B.S.T. OVER THE FRENCH WIRELESS, IT IS ANNOUNCED BY THE NETHERLANDS LEGATION IN PARIS. --REUTER

M-2

11.34 PARIS WARNED AGAINST PARACHUTISTS

PARIS, MAY 13.: THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF PARIS HAS POSTED A WARNING TO THE PUBLIC REGARDING PARACHUTISTS. --REUTER

M-2

U BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING 18.5.40
Saturday

SECRET

S/m's attacked

1022 Ryl a/c 59°34'N 6°16'W (A/C 1022/18)
~~Bearing known non-sub. in approx. 58°41'N~~
~~30~~

~~1443 Ryl a/c 49°48'N 5°50'W~~

15.05 BELGIAN ARMY ROUNDING UP PARACHUTISTS.

BRUSSELS, MAY 10: THE BELGIAN ARMY IS NOW ROUNDING UP LITTLE UNITS OF PARACHUTISTS WHO LANDED ON BELGIAN SOIL.

THE AIR ATTACK ON BELGIUM WAS CARRIED OUT BY NUMEROUS SQUADRONS. SEVERAL GERMAN PLANES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT DOWN. THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES IN THE BRUSSELS AREA IS VERY SMALL. --REUTER.

S-1

U BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING 18.5.40
Saturday

S/m's reported.

SECRET

Estimated dispositions. ~~Retired~~ DOIC 1432/18.

Msg 1151. Report now considered unreliable. Relieve EPERVIER (C.C.W.A. 1523/18 to VANQUISHER)

1405 S/m sighted 58°20'N 5°23'W (BRABANT 1405/18)

1132 49°48'N 6°10'W (a/c 1132/18)

~~4 mf 0022/18. Doubtful whether sunk in approx 58°41'N~~

0700 By French S/M ACHILLE suspected 57°08'N. 4°40'E (I.C. 0455/40)

DIVISION, THE HOUSE

M-1 ''' '''

16.34 CHINESE CLAIM IMPORTANT VICTORIES MAY 13

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OVER 10,000 JAPANESE HAVE BEEN KILLED AND WOUNDED ON THE HONAN AND HUPEH FRONTS, ACCORDING TO A TELEGRAM FROM CHUNGKING RECEIVED BY THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN LONDON. --REUTER

B-2

SECRET

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

18.5.1940
Saturday.

S/M's Reported.

1132 By A/C in position KLYV 4810. 49°48'N, 5°50'W,
1155 S. of Lands End 15' (A/C 217 Sqdn. & Hyd. ABERDEEN. 1132/18)
ABERDEEN to attack (C-in-C WA 1151/18 ≠ 1247/18) 1155/18
Report now considered unreliable (C-in-C WA 1523/18)
~~1107~~ 1141 59°07'N 0°36'W ~~(A/C~~ (? COURAGEOUS) 1141/18)
1605 52°55'N 2°58'E by a/c
1405 P/S seen steering 180° 5 knots 58°20'N 5°23'W
(BRABANT, 1405/18 1755/18) About one cable distant
from us (BRABANT 1535/18 ≠, C-in-C Rosyth
1708/18) SABRE to hunt (C-in-C Rosyth 1614/18,
1718/18, 1939/18, RA(D) HF 2243/18

~~1000~~ ~~BY AIR~~

Your 0022/18~~th May.~~ There is a known non sub
in approx~~imate position.~~ 058° 41' N~~orth~~ 003° 51' ~~West.~~ Unless
you are convinced that contact is a ~~U-~~Boat proceed in
execution of previous orders.

(Fo COS 0913/18. to SABRE)

No trace War Registry.

S/M was SPEARFISH (Spearfish to Admy. 0421/19)

SHALL WITHIN FIVE YEARS [illegible]

MANAGEMENT OF A COMPANY WITHOUT THE LEAVE OF THE COURT.

DEFAULT IN FURNISHING INFORMATION RENDERS A COMPANY OR PERSON LIABLE TO A FINE OF £50, AND £50 A DAY AFTER CONVICTION; AND FOR FURNISHING FALSE INFORMATION THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS A FINE OF £100 FOR EACH OFFENCE. --REUTER

CH-2

11.14. "DECLARE WAR ON GERMANY AT ONCE"

SAYS NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE.

.....N E W Y O R K, MAY 16....."IT IS QUITE PROBABLE THAT THE LEAST COSTLY SOLUTION IN BOTH LIFE AND WELFARE WOULD BE TO DECLARE WAR ON GERMANY AT ONCE", SAYS THE "NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE" IN A POWERFUL LEADING ARTICLE THIS MORNING HEADED "WHAT REAL PREPAREDNESS MEANS".

SECRET

~~17~~ 5.1940
~~Friday.~~

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked.

PROCYON — Swedish tanker (8725 tons) reported struck a mine on journey from Gothenburg to Baltic, but was able to proceed to Trelleborg for repairs (Press, Sweden)

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE SIMILAR TO THOSE SIGNED BETWEEN MOSCOW AND THE BALTIC STATES LAST YEAR ARE DENIED IN A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE OFFICIAL TASS AGENCY TODAY.

"THESE REPORTS ARE A FABRICATION FROM BEGINNING TO END", THE STATEMENT SAYS.

SUGGESTIONS THAT THE SOVIET HAS "ADOPTED A POLICY OF PAN-SLAVISM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHICH RUMANIA IS BEING ENCOURAGED TO ASSIST YUGOSLAVIA IF THE LATTER IS ATTACKED BY ITALY", ARE ALSO REFUTED. --REUTER

B-2

2

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS 18.5.40
Saturday

SECRET

South Atlantic

KHAKOTIS — Left Callao 2350/16 cleared for Hamburg but possibly for Vladivostock. Description (DDIC 1227/18 to N.I.B. Melbourne & N.Z.) Commenced painting her upperworks grey before sailing (IC.0454/40)

WALDTRAUT HORN
HEINZ HORN } appear to have reached Germany safely with cargoes from S. America (Portfol. Summary 156)

North Atlantic.

RUDOLF ALBRECHT — 3817 tons, left Azores 8/5, arrived Teneriffe 18/5 (Teneriffe 1113/18)

"I NEVER BELIEVED BEFORE THAT HOLLAND WAS SO WELL-EQUIPPED TO DEFEND HER FRONTIERS."

THE FRONTIER POPULATION ARE ALSO FACING THEIR ORDEAL WITH EXEMPLARY CALM AND THE ONLY EVACUATIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE ARE THOSE ORDERED BY THE AUTHORITIES.

B-2 --REUTER

REUTERS TESTING

RYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRY

RYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRY

FOREIGN STATIONS
China

18.5.40
Saturday.

SECRET

S/m report. C2 Telegram 4161 (?) to London.
Am endeavouring to discover if Dutch
S/m's were in vicinity (C.in.S.
Singapore 0306Z/18 to C in C China &c.)

AVIATION.

"THE HIGHER INTERESTS OF THE CONDUCT OF OPERATIONS COMPEL US NOT TO GIVE AT THE PRESENT MOMENT ANY PRECISE INFORMATION AS TO THE ACTIONS WHICH ARE NOW TAKING PLACE" --REUTER

CH-1

10.45 STOCK MARKETS STEADIER. MAY 16

ALTHOUGH THERE IS LITTLE ACTIVITY MARKETS ARE DECIDEDLY STEADIER THIS MORNING. SMALL GAINS ARE SHOWN IN GILT-EDGED AND THE TENDENCY IN INDUSTRIALS AND HOME RAILS IS ALSO A SHADE HARDER FOR CHOICE.

KAFFIRS ARE IRREGULAR. --REUTER.

S-2

SECRET

18.5.40
~~Friday~~
Sat.

FOREIGN STATIONS
America and West Indies

Degaussing of Japanese ships — Asking for Admty. policy (NSHQ Ottawa 1126/18)

SS ROMA — New York reports her sailing 18/5 and reliable report states that spare equipment usually stored here is being put on board (NSHQ Ottawa 1603/18)

18.13.

AMENDED VERSION OF 16.28 MESSAGE:

U.S. COPPER MARKETS

.....NEW YORK, MAY 10.....REFLECTING THE OVERNIGHT DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE, ALL COPPER QUOTATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF ELEVEN CENTS PER LB. ON CUSTOMS SMELTER AND OUTSIDE MARKETS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FOR THE TIME BEING, AND NO QUOTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

SALES OF COPPER FUTURES INDICATE A BASIS EQUIVALENT TO AT LEAST 11-3/8 CENTS PER LB. REUTER

CH-1

FOREIGN STATIONS
East Indies.

18.5.40
Saturday.

SECRET

Movements. Your 2237/16. OTRANTO, ORFORD sailed to K.V. with CALYPSO, RORQUAL in 29° 18 miles Ras-el-Tin Lt. am/19. (C-in-C MEF 1107/18 to SNO Suez)

Muscat Your 0502/1/4 (Re using Muscat as small advance base) Permission to use anchorage at short notice has been granted (W.O. M.I. 1528/18 to C-in-C (E))

TOMORROW IN THE JOINT PROTEST MADE BY THE AMERICAN NATIONS
AGAINST THE INVASION OF HOLLAND, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG, IT
IS LEARNED FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE HERE. --REUTER
CH-1

19.23. WALL STREET DOMINATED BY WAR NEWS

.....N E W Y O R K, MAY 15.....THE EMOTIONAL LIQUIDATION HAS SPENT ITSELF FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT THE MARKET IS STILL DOMINATED BY WAR TIDINGS AND WHILE THE MAJORITY OF STOCKS HAVE ADVANCED FRACTIONS TO THREE POINTS AND DU PONT SIX POINTS, A HANDFUL HAVE DECLINED ONE TO TWO POINTS.

FOREIGN SELLING IS REPORTED TO BE UNIMPORTANT. AT THE SAME TIME, SOME UNEASINESS IS EVIDENT OWING TO THE POSSIBLE

FOREIGN STATIONS

~~So to Atlantic~~

SECRET

19. 5. 40

~~We sun say~~ ~~today~~ ~~Sunday~~

2 a Sunday

~~BALLGWATER To patrol stay at Lagos and provide A/S protection for troops transport arriving about 29/5 (CiCS A 1640/5)~~

East Indies.

Convoys from Bombay. Arrangements (CiCE 1645 2/18)

Destroyers Re. Atty. 80 35/18. Medway in Qu 14th DF will be sailed for Aden as soon as possible after arrival at Alexandria (CiC Med 2231/18 to CiCE.)

FOR PAYING DUTCH OFFICIALS WHO ARE OUTSIDE THEIR HOME COUNTRY.

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING JONKHEER LOUDON'S DUTIES ARRIVED ON SATURDAY.

IT WAS STATED HERE TODAY IN AN AUTHORISED NETHERLANDS SOURCE:

"THIS CAN BE TAKEN AS PROOF THAT WE WILL FIGHT IF WE ARE ATTACKED.

"GERMAN PROPAGANDA HAS ASSIDUOUSLY SPREAD IN THE UNITED STATES THE IDEA THAT THE NETHERLANDS WOULD NOT RESIST IF ATTACKED, SUCH IS CERTAINLY NOT THE CASE".

AS FAR AS CAN BE ASCERTAINED, SAYS AN AMSTERDAM DISPATCH TO THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY, THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT EXPECT ANY DIRECT MOVE BY GERMANY AGAINST THE NETHERLANDS, B THE PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN FELT NECESSARY TO DEMONSTRATE "THE NETHERLANDS' THOROUGH PREPAREDNESS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY".

S-1 --REUTER.

FOREIGN STATIONS 18.5.40
Mediterranean & East Indies. Saturday

SECRET

2. Probably inacceptable to delay destroyers arrival at Alexandria by using them to escort sloops or CARLISLE. Latter are in tender for Red Sea and if necessary must be diverted via Cape.
3. Re C in C E 1857/16 at least one division of destroyers should be sent up to Red Sea.
4. Cruisers. By about 23/5 C in C E will have at Aden LIVERPOOL (Flag S.O.R.S.F.), GLOUCESTER, HOBART, SYDNEY, LEANDER. GLOUCESTER and two 8 in de gun cruisers should then join you. Later when sloops and CARLISLE reach Red Sea you may wish to exchange one of your 8 inch gun cruisers for Liverpool.
5. EAGLE will arrive Aden 22/5. Perhaps she should have up Red Sea with cruisers if situation permits.
6. Your 1873/16 to Admty. Regret impossible at present (1st SL 0035/18 to C in C Med.)

THEY WERE TOLD TO TAKE THEIR LUGGAGE WITH THEM BUT TO PACK AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.

S-2 ---REUTER.

20.42 GOERING AT HIS HEADQUARTERS.

BERLIN, MAY 11: IT IS ANNOUNCED THAT FIEL -MARSHAL GOERING PROCEEDED TO HIS HEADQUARTERS ON THURSDAY (THE EVE OF THE GERMAN INVASION OF HOLLAND AND BELGIUM).

S-2 --REUTER.

FOREIGN STATIONS. Mediterranean. 18.5.40 Saturday

SECRET

Syracuse. Boom repaired and placed in position.
A.1. (8061) Malta 2007/18)

14.29 ADD 13.28 "BOTH SIDES MASSING FOR GREAT BATTLE"

IN BELGIUM ENEMY PRESSURE CONTINUES EXTREMELY STRONG IN THE AREA OF MAASTRICHT, AND THE GERMANS HAVE REACHED THE REGION OF TONGRES. THE ELEMENTS WHICH REACHED TONGRES ARE MAINLY ARMOURED COLUMNS AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE GERMANS ARE HAMPERED IN TRYING TO MAKE THEIR PRINCIPAL COLUMNS DEBOUCH BECAUSE OF ALLIED AVIATION ACTIVITY IN BOMBING ROADS, RAILWAYS AND MOVING COLUMNS.

A LOCAL COUNTER-ATTACK BY A FRENCH ARMOURED COLUMN WAS SUCCESSFUL AGAINST A GERMAN ARMOURED COLUMN, AND THE GERMAN ADVANCE SEEMED YESTERDAY EVENING TO HAVE BEEN HELD IN THE TONGRES AREA.

THE LIEGE FORTS ARE STILL HOLDING OUT, EXCEPT ONE WHICH WAS TAKEN BY THE GERMANS.

ALL BRIDGES IN THIS AREA HAVE BEEN BLOWN UP AND THE GERMANS ARE HAMPERED BY THE DESTRUCTION CARRIED OUT BY THE BELGIANS, BY THE ADVANCE OF THE ALLIED UNITS, AND BY THE ATTACKS OF ALLIED

FOREIGN STATIONS 18.5.40.
Saturday

SECRET

South Atlantic.

Mines off Cape — Deutschlandsender 1315/18 announced that the mines which have been found off Cape Agulhas, are laid by German Naval units.

* Mines off Cape Agulhas: Raider believed to be at large. Information as given in Situation Report 17/5 (Ci: CSA 1005/18 *, DN 10101/18 *, DC 2001/18)

19.22. ANGLO-JAPANESE TRADE TALKS

.....T O K I O, MAY 14.....MR. SHIGEMITSU, THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IN LONDON, IS EXPECTED SHORTLY TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO SECURING A RELAXATION OF WAR-TIME RESTRICTIONS ON ANGLO-JAPANESE TRADE, THE DOMEI NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCED TODAY. --REUTER

CH-1

19.26. R.A.F. CONTINUE "STRAFING" GERMAN TROOPS

.....REUTERS CORRESPONDENT WITH THE R.A.F., SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE, MAY 14.....BOMBERS OF THE R.A.F. ADVANCED STRIKING

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS

68/5

South Atlantic.

A/S Defences, S. Africa

In view of possible entry of Italy into the war, consideration should be given to the strengthening of A/S defences at South African ports. Equipment is not available at home, but action should be taken with the Government with a view to increasing security by local measures. (D of L D 1308/18 & SNO Simonstown)

FORCE ARE ATTACKING WITH THE FULLEST POSSIBLE VIGOUR THE GERMAN ARMIES ENGAGED IN THE FRESH THRUST FROM BELGIUM ROUND THE CORNER OF THE MAGINOT LINE.

NO DETAILS ARE AS YET AVAILABLE OF THE ACTION TAKEN, BUT IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT ALL AVAILABLE SERVICEABLE AIRCRAFT ARE BEING CONCENTRATED ON THIS TASK.

A DAY OF ALMOST CONTINUOUS GERMAN AIR RAIDS OVER NORTH-EAST FRANCE ALSO TESTIFIES TO A SHARP INCREASE IN THE TEMPO OF THE WAR IN THE AIR WITH THE GERMAN ATTACK AGAINST THE LOW COUNTRIES.

REFUGEES FROM THE ARDENNES - BOTH IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM - ARE STREAMING WESTWARDS, JOINED BY OTHERS FROM LUXEMBOURG ON EVERY AVAILABLE FORM OF TRANSPORT.

THEY HAVE PITIFUL TALES TO TELL OF THE RUTHLESSNESS OF NAZI AIRMEN WHO CONTINUE BOMBING AND MACHINE-GUNNING DEFENCELESS CIVILIANS. REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

1A/5

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Group 7. ASTURIAS, CARINTHIA, CHESHIRE, DERBYSHIRE, and PATROCLUS are to be designated as Group 7 as from 0001 G.M.T. 19/5. (DOD(F) 1313/18)

French positions DC 0725/18

Spanish Shipping. Undesirability of putting into force at this critical moment drastic tightening up measures of Commissioner's control of Spanish shipping between Spanish ports (NA Madrid 2038/18)

Complaint received that Spanish Ships CELTA and CASTILLO DAROCA boarded 26th March and 28th March in Spanish territorial waters. Request report (Adty. 1740/18. to FOCNA)

19.05. MR. CHURCHILL AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE MAY 10.

FIVE MINUTES AFTER MR. CHAMBERLAIN HAD LEFT BUCKINGHAM PALACE, MR. CHURCHILL DROVE THROUGH THE PALACE GATES. HE WAS RECEIVED BY THE KING. REUTER

CH-1

19.08. PRIME MINISTER TO BROADCAST MAY 10.

IT IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BROADCAST AT 21.00 THIS EVENING. REUTER

CH-1

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS 18.5.40
Home Command. Saturday

SECRET

CHALLENGER. Main Engine major defects, sped 3 knots. attempting to make Belfast, Short assistance necessary before proceeding further (CHALLENGER 1011/18)
By 1100. Can now maintain 8 knots. Expect to arrive Belfast 2000. Anticipate 48 hours required for repairs (CHALLENGER 1321/18)
Arrived for repairs (NOIC Belfast 1828/18)

SS ST KEARAN British (691 tons) sunk about 0100/17 in collision with ship thought to be SS EXPLORATEUR GRANDIDIER (Sc. 17/5) 8 miles SE of Platte Lr. 55°26'N 5°7'W, in the Firth of Clyde.
(FOIC Greenock 1307/18)

ISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES. --REUTER

9 MORE AIR RAID WARNINGS IN HELSINKI

SINKI, FEB 21.: AIR RAID ALARMS BEGAN AGAIN EARLY TODAY WITH WARNINGS, ONE AT 8.15 A.M. WHICH LASTED UNTIL 8.30 A.M. AND SECOND FROM 8.35 A.M. UNTIL 8.55 A.M. --REUTER

20 PREMIER'S STATEMENT IMPRESSES SWEDEN

OCKHOLM, FEB 21.: MR CHAMBERLAIN'S STATEMENT ON THE ALTMARK FAIR IS FRONT PAGE NEWS IN SCANDINAVIAN NEWSPAPERS TODAY, AND MMENT SHOWS CONSIDERABLY GREATER UNDERSTANDING FOR THE BRITISH

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

~~(ANF~~
~~15~~ }

~~Lowestoft~~ 18
~~16~~.5.1940
~~Wednesday~~
Saturday

~~A collision yesterday between one of Thames. (V.A. Dover, 1304/15)~~
~~BRAKE hull damaged stem and bows watertight proved. BRILLIANT hull~~
~~damaged 132-152. Starboard propeller and starboard A frame probably~~
~~damaged BRILLIANT also due for refit. Both ships require docking.~~
~~(C-in-C Nore. 1514/15)~~

PRINCESS VICTORIA — Mined 1 mile S E Humber L.V. (D 20 2320/18, Fo Humber 2358/18) 12 officers 79 ratings survivors (Fo Humber 0135/19)

~~Secret~~. HOME COMMANDS
Enemy Intelligence

18.5.40
Saturday.

Methods adopted by the Germans during their attacks upon Norway and Holland included the following.

1 2. Smuggling of arms and supplies, over a long period, into German owned warhouses.

1 2. Use of neutral colours on German ships.

3. Cargo steamers filled with troops were sent to selected points for several days in advance of the attack, the men being kept under hatches.

4. Men landed from cargo steamers disguised as merchant seamen and armed with hand grenades and light machine guns seized jetties and other important points.

(Adm^ty, 2212/18.)

5. Naval ~~warships and~~ escort craft posed as British or French ships, hailing or communicating with port authorities in the appropriate language or code.

BISMARK — Photographic air reconnaissance showed Battleship BISMARK, almost complete, alongside in the Steinwerder Ufer, Hamburg. (I.I.0455/40)

TRONDJHEM — English woman just arrived from Trondjheim states great military activity there and local transport being collected and parked. German General Headquarters reported to be in Trondjheim where air activity has been renewed after quiet period. German s/m's reported to be discharging oil into main oil tanks there and no other shipping seen there for some time. (A.A. Stockholm to Air Ministry 1650/18)

HER PART." --REUTER

M-2

14.26 ALARMS IN NORTH-WEST FRANCE.

PARIS, MAY 13: AIR RAID ALARMS WERE SOUNDED ROUND 11.00 THIS MORNING IN VARIOUS PARTS OF NORTH-WEST FRANCE.

S-1 --REUTER.

SECRET

18.5.40
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Weather.

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	Light & variable except in South. Moderate in extreme North.	Fine & cloudy. Local coastal haze or fog.	Good except on coasts.
Horns Reef & Dutch coast.	N E, moderate.	Fine & cloudy.	Good except in local haze on coast.
Channel	Light & variable.	Fine & cloudy. Local coastal haze or fog.	Good except on coasts.
W. Approaches	S. light to moderate	Cloudy	Good
Coast of Norway.	Light, mainly from S.	Fine & cloudy.	Good.

20.46. A WARNING TO THE GERMAN PUBLIC

.....P A R I S, MAY 15.....THE NEED TO PREPARE OPINION IN GERMANY FOR DIFFICULTIES WHICH MAY CROP UP IN THE OPERATIONS ON THE WESTERN FRONT TEMPERS TO SOME EXTENT THE JUBILATION OF THE NAZI PRESS AT THE SUCCESS AGAINST THE WEAKR OF ITS ADVERSARIES, ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM THE GERMAN FRONTIER.

THE "BOERSEN ZEITUNG" WRITES:

"CONFIDENCE MUST CONTINUE TO BE REPOSED IN THE LEADERS OF THE GERMAN ARMY, EVEN IF THE GRAVEST DAYS SHOULD ARISE DURING THE STRUGGLE UNDERTAKEN AGAINST THE TWO WESTERN DEMOCRACIES, ARMED TO THE TEETH, AND THEIR SATELLITES". --REUTER

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Miscellaneous

18
~~17~~ 5.40
~~Friday~~
Sat.

~~Norwegian~~ Loyalty of King Haakon's staff. 4 ors 1837/17. Nothing occurred in GLASGOW which supports suppositions (GLASGOW 1203/18)

Oil Tanks at Bergen, Stavanger, Haugesund. Particulars (DN/1554/17 to C-in-C HF)

Swedish destroyers and depot ships sail for Queenstown via Vigo about 21/5 (DN/1844/18)

Reporting by Hospital Ships Hospital ships and carriers may report immediately by W/T if they see enemy a/c's dropping parachute mines (A/S. 1527/18)

OT4.57 NEW YORK ON MONTREAL 82.500 --REUTER.

S-1

14.59 WAR RISK INSURANCE RATES UP MAY 10.

THE DOUBLING OF ALL EXISTING ADVISORY RATES OF INSURANCE AGAINST WAR RISKS ON VOYAGES TO, FROM OR VIA THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM IS ANNOUNCED BY THE INSTITUTE OF LONDON UNDERWRITERS, AS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF OVERNIGHT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

SUCH INCREASED RATES ARE TO APPLY TO ALL VESSELS SAILING TOMORROW OR THEREAFTER.

HOME COMMANDS. 18.5.40
Saturday

SECRET

Shipping.

Dutch trawlers. ~~Fifteen~~ arrives ~~from Yarmouth. ANTJES, HOOP,~~ ~~ISABEL, HORNBLEF, NEPTUNUS~~ (C-C Ports Portsmouth 2344/18 1334/18) Any Dutch trawlers or other vessels attempting to return to Holland will be arrested (H.S.H.)

Depot for Dutch ships and crews is being rapidly formed at Falmouth (H.S.H.)

Dutch shipping

The Netherlands Shipping Committed now operating in London, is issuing instructions to Dutch shipping. It has ~~given~~ ordered ~~for~~ all Dutch ships, fully loaded and proceeding to ports in North Europe, to made for Great Britain. (Adty. 1736/18)

Allied shipping

Defensive and degaussing equipment is being supplied to merchant ships of Allied powers under certain conditions, and ~~the~~ ~~necessary~~ arrangements for training members of the crews in use of defensive armament can be made. (Adty. 1424/18)

Refugees

Ocean convoys DC 1921/18, C-in-C WA 1356/18

Dutch Trawlers My 2344/18 Dutch trawlers named are all warships (C-in-C Portsmouth to Adty. 1216/19

~~236.~~ COTE D'AZUR arrived in Downs with 800 refugees from Ostend and is being sent to Folkestone ~~at 1000 tomorrow~~ ~~Sunday~~. (VA Dover 1041/18) 1000/19

12.46. THE SOUTH AFRICAN WOOL AGREEMENT

.....B L O E M F O N T E I N, MAY 16.....THE SOUTH AFRICAN WOOLGROWERS' ASSOCIATION TODAY DECIDED IN FAVOUR OF THE RENEWAL OF THE BRITISH WOOL-BUYING PLAN FOR THE COMING SEASON. --REUTER

CH-1

T2.58. GERMAN COMMUNIQUE

.....B E R L I N, MAY 16.....TODAY'S GERMAN COMMUNIQUE DATED FROM THE FUEHRER'S HEADQUARTERS SAYS:

"GERMAN TROOPS ENTERED THE HAGUE AND AMSTERDAM AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR CAPITULATION.

SECRET

~~16~~ 18.5.1940
~~Thursday.~~
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

~~Boom defs.~~ Mining.

East Coast Barrage. 20th DF are now doubling the barrage in the Smith's Knoll area (MSM)

CORFIELD The second Mine Destructor ship commenced operations in the Thames Estuary 18/5 (MSM)

~~MAIDSTONE 2 Admiralty Cyclops~~ CYCLOPS ~~at Rosyth (VA(S) 1431/16)~~

OF ALL ON-CALL SALES ON THE BASIS OF LAST FRIDAY'S CLOSING QUOTATIONS, HAS CAUSED CONSTERNATION AMONG TRADERS.

THEIR RESENTMENT INCREASED WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION WAS PROMPTED, NOT BY THE POLITICAL SITUATION, BUT BY THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE AUTHORITIES TO TAKE UP FURTHER COTTON AND COTTONSEED AT THE OFFICIAL BUYING LIMITS.

A SMALL TRADE WAS TRANSACTED IN SPOT OF ASHMOUNI, ZAGORA AND GIZA SEVENS AT FIXED PRICES. --REUTER

CH-1

18.55. CONTRABAND CONTROL IS "SABOTAGE AGAINST ITALY"

.....R O M E, MAY 14.....DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY THE WAR OF GETTING A NORMAL SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS MADE IT NECESSARY

SECRET

8.5.40

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Enemy mines, Dieppe. — Adm. Commanding at Le Havre reports that unspecific mines have probably been dropped at 2300 in the entrance between the jetties at the Port of Dieppe. Requests all traffic for Dieppe to stop. The Port of Dieppe has been bombed at 2225. (DSO Le Havre, 2350/18)

CORFIELD, etc, Barrow Deep. — C in C Nore's 1109/18. Code word allotted BOPUP. (DSO, 1509/18

Operation B.S. 5. — Completed. Last mine laid at 1556. A/c report unknown S/m dived at 1620 in position 52° 55' N, 02° 58' E. (PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1714/18)

BASIS : 30-10-38 - 100:- TODAY 128. PREVIOUS 128.4,

WEEK AGO 156.9, 4 WEEKS AGO 154.3, YEAR AGO 124.5 --REUTER

B-2

16.05 NEW YORK 11.00 STOCKS. MAY 17.

N Y CENT..12-1/2 PENNS R R..18-1/2 ALL CHEM..160

AM CAN..100 AM SMELT..41-1/2 AM TEL TEL..168-1/2

ANACONDA..25-1/4 CONS EDISON..27-3/8 CHRYSLER..68-3/4

DU PONT..168 GEN ELEC..33-1/4 GEN MOTORS..44-1/4

INT HARV..51 INT NCKL..24-3/4 KENNECOTT..31-7/8

MONT WARD..39 RADIO..5-1/4 SHELL UN..9-1/2 U S STEEL..54-5/8

WOOLWTH..34-1/2 BETH STEEL..83-1/2 REP IRON STEEL..18-1/2

GT NTHRN PREF..42-7/8 CMMNWLTH S..1 20TH CENT..6-1/2

S-2 --REUTER.

HOME COMMANDS

18.5.40
Saturday

SECRET

Air

Enemy air activity.

KEITH Bombed 51° 20' N 2° 0' E (KEITH 1529/18, 1536/18)

Fighter a/c are being sent to your assistance (C in C Nore 1549/18 to KEITH)

WILD SWAN Bombed (WILD SWAN 1533/18)

~~PRINCE BAUDOUIN Bombed between Kwintebanks and West Hinderbank (N. Foreland Radio 18/)~~

"THERE HAVE, I AM AFRAID, BEEN A GREAT NUMBER OF VICTIMS AMONG THE POPULATION.

"ON THE FACE OF IT, THE CONDITIONS REMIND US OF THOSE OF THE INVASION OF 1914.

"THE WORLD MUST KNOW ITS TERRORS AND THE CONSCIENCE OF MANKIND WILL JUDGE.

"THE HOUR WILL COME WHEN EVERYTHING WILL BE REPAID.

"WHILE AWAITING FOR THIS TIME WE MUST BE OF GOOD HEART, KEEP OUR MARALE INTACT, AND GUARD OUR COUNTRY.

CH-1 SEE --5-- REUTER

18.45. NAZI PARACHUTISTS IN CHATEAU GROUNDS

.....P A R I S, MAY 14.....DETACHMENTS OF GERMAN PARACHUTISTS CAME DOWN AT THE CHATEAU OF LAAKEN WHERE

~~HOME COMMANDS~~. 18/5

SECRET

Air

Enemy air activity

PRINS ALBERT Attacked outside Ostend. (N. Foreland Radio (no T.00. /18) Had 1500 refugees on board. (Va Dover 0025/19)

Threat of Reprisals. Germans announce that they intend to take reprisals for alleged bombing of open towns. Attacks may therefore be expected tonight or in the immediate future. (DDD(H) 2025/18)

CH-1

18.43. BRUSSELS RAID LASTED 1-1/2 HOURS MAY 10.

ACCORDING TO BRITISH OFFICIAL QUARTERS A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH BRUSSELS LATE THIS AFTERNOON STATES THAT THE AERIAL BOMBARDMENT LASTED FOR ONE AND A HALF HOURS EARLY THIS MORNING, SINCE THEN ABSOLUTE CALM HAS REIGNED.

THE POPULATION IN BRUSSELS IS CHEERFUL AND FULL OF CONFIDENCE IN THE ALLIES. THEIR MORALE IS GOOD AND THEIR ANGER AT THE GERMANS STRONG. DAMAGE DONE BY THE GERMAN BOMBERS IS SLIGHT, ONLY A FEW HOUSES HAVE BEEN HIT IN THE AV NUE LOUISE AND ONE FACTORY IS ABLAZE AT SCHARBECK OUTSIDE BRUSSELS. REUTER

SECRET

19-5-40

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy air Activity

Losses in Norway. Following from N.A. Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs states General Ruge estimates German air losses at 150. This includes losses due to bombing of air bases. Several reports received of German planes found destroyed in mountains due to damage inflicted by naval A/A fire. (C.S.I, 2301/18 to Admlty)

~~KEITH Bombed VKWJ 2000 (KEITH 1529/18) Fighter A/c being sent to assist (C-in-C Nore 1549/18)~~

~~WILD SWAN Bombed (WILD SWAN 1532/18)~~

DSTD (unknown ship) attacked 3 miles north of Middelkerk South Bank buoy. (Portishead Radio, 1533/18)

PRINCE BAUDOUIN Bombed 1557 between Kwintebank and West Hinder. (N. Foreland Radio Rec. 1709/18)
(PRINCE BAUDOUIN, 1656/18) (Had 1500 refugees on board)

FLIGHTS IN FRONT OF OUR POSITIONS.

"DURING YESTERDAY BELGIAN MOTORISED UNITS AND CAVALRY CORPS FOUGHT A BRILLIANT ENGAGEMENT IN THE REGION OF THE GETTE EQUALLING THE FAMOUS BATTLE OF 1914". --REUTER

CH-1

19.40. AMERICANS WARNED TO LEAVE ITALY

.....W A S H I N G T O N, MAY 14.....AMERICAN CITIZENS IN ITALY ARE BEING WARNED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY MR. CORDELL HULL SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY.

THIS REPRESENTS A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE POSSIBILITY OF ITALY ENTERING THE WAR. MR. SUMNER WELLES SAID TEN DAYS AGO THAT NO CONSIDERATION WAS BEING

SECRET

18/5 Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British air activity.

7 A A. Equators. Admty. 2009/17. Thank you for your offer. These squadrons will not be used for bombing operations without prior reference to you. (Air Ministry, 0003/18)

Operation Bottle. Successfully completed. (Halston, 0413/18)

SINCE APRIL 8 THE FLEET AIR ARM HAVE SHOT DOWN TWENTY ENEMY AIRCRAFT OFF NORWAY BESIDES ACCOUNTING FOR MANY OTHERS ON THE GROUND. A FURTHER 51 ENEMY AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNFIRE OF THE FLEET.

S-2 --REUTER.

IN ABOVE ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE READ IN FIRST PARAGRAPH:

....BELIEVED TO BE THE B R E N S E.

HOME COMMANDS

18.5.40.
Saturday

SECRET

Submarines.

L26 picks up refugees

Portions. 0600/19 (DC 2002/18, 2325/18, VA(S) 1727/18

Allieds/m's ~~0700/19~~ portions 0700/19 (DC 1954/18) ~~0600/18~~ (DC 0008/18)

OF STEEL SCRAP. CHEMICALS AND MERCHANDISINGS ARE VERY HEAVY AND FARM IMPLEMENTS HAVE SOLD OFF AS EXPORT IN THE WHEAT MARKET WAS FURTHER CURTAILED.

MOTORS ARE DEPRESSED, THE AUTOMOBILE SALES FOR APRIL NOT HAVING REACHED EXPECTATIONS.

A FEW AIRCRAFTS, RAILS AND COPPERS ARE RESISTANT, THE LATTER AIDED BY THE HEAVY SALES OF DOMESTIC COPPER.

OILS ARE EASY DESPITE THE RUMOURS OF LARGE FOREIGN INQUIRY FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

MEANWHILE, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE MARKET WILL RALLY VERY BRISKLY IN THE EVENT OF ANY CHEERING EUROPEAN NEWS.

A SEAT ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE HAS BEEN SOLD FOR 50,000 DOLLARS, UNCHANGED FROM THE PREVIOUS SEAT SOLD. --REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

18.5.940

HOME COMMANDS.

Dutch warships.

MEDUSA
DOUWE-AUKES } minelayers. Ltr Dover for Spithead. (V.A. Dover, 0918/18 Admiralty (C-in-C Portsmouth 2220/18)

O.8 and O.11 Msg 2120/17 (List). Heading such should include O.8 and O.11, both might be raised. (ONI 1047/18)

GRUNO Sunbeam. Condition and defects. (F.O. Harwich, 1240/18)

MTB.78 arrived Dover. (V.A. Dover 1916/18)

FLORES
VAN MEERLANT } arrived Dover 2005 (V.A. Dover 2009/18)

DIRKJE
CLAESJE
AMSTERDAM
BLOEMENDAAL
OMMERING } arrived (C-in-C Portsmouth 2220/18)

TB's to escort new Dutch s/m Flotilla Yarr 1839/17 approved (V.C.N.S 2206/18 to V.A.(S))

20.18 CHURCHILL SEES THE KING. MAY 11.

MR CHURCHILL DROVE TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE AND HAD AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KING THIS EVENING.

S-2 --REUTER;

20.40 GERMANS GAIN FOOTHOLD IN BELGIAN LINE.

BRUSSELS, MAY 11: THE BELGIAN WAR COMMUNIQUE TONIGHT STATES

HOME COMMANDS 18.5.40

SECRET Saturday

Operations.

~~Tromso~~ Northern Norway

Maalsnes Pier will need strengthening for 7 tons weight, road suitable. Road to Tromso - Balsfiord open. Both roads cut just ~~north~~ NE of junction Reisen Fiord road. Repairs estimated complete in 7 days (CS1 0247/18)

Base — Owing to congestion and limited water supply at Harstad it is essential for Anglo-French forces to have subsidiary base at Tromso. Urgent. (FO Narvik 1207/18 to C S 1 for British Charge d'Affaires)

Intelligence organisation — to be established forthwith in Northern Norway, with SO(1)'s at Tromso and Kirkenes (DN 1.15 10/18)

~~19.~~ L.26 picked up 9 refugees from open boat ~~in position~~ 52° ~~degrees~~ 23' ~~North~~ 03° ~~degrees~~ 05' ~~East at~~ 0450/18 ~~today~~ ~~Saturday~~. Some reputed to be ex German influential business.

(L26 0525/18, ~~X~~ VA (2) 2258/18)

THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO ITALIAN BANKS IN LONDON THAT IN FUTURE ALL PURCHASES BY ITALIAN NATIONALS IN THIS COUNTRY OF EMIGRANT-LIRE MUST BE MADE AGAINST CORRESPONDING OFFERINGS OF UNITED STATES DOLLARS AND NOT, AS HITHERTO, AGAINST STERLING.

THE MEASURE IS SAID TO BE DUE TO THE DIFFICULTIES ATTENDANT ON NEGOTIATING STERLING ABROAD OWING TO THE CONSTANT FLUCTUATIONS IN THE FREE RATE. --REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

18.5.1940
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

Narvik

Rotvoer Island. Yours 1940/12 Admty. considers it essential to establish P.W.S.S. on Rotvoer Island. Personnel (ROTVOER) arrangements. (2 SL. to R.A. Narvik, 1111/18)

RESOLUTION To proceed to Scapa. (F.O. Narvik, 1157/18)

~~Bonsor~~ For British Chargé d'affairs. Please inform Norwegians verbally that owing to congestion and limited water supply at Harstad it is essential for Anglo-French forces to have subsidiary base at Bonsor. Arrangements. (F.O. Narvik & C.S. 1, 1207/18)

Enemy air losses. Estimated at 150 (see Air).

CH-1 --REUTER

13.28. BOTH SIDES MASSING FOR GREAT BATTLE

.....PARIS, MAY 13.....THE GREAT BATTLE WHICH IS IMMINENT HAS NOT YET BEGUN AND WILL ONLY START WHEN THE GREAT MASSES OF OPPOSING ALLIED AND GERMAN FORCES ARE REALLY IN CONTACT.

THIS WAS EMPHASISED IN WELL-INFORMED MILITARY CIRCLES IN PARIS THIS MORNING, WHERE IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT SO FAR THERE HAD ONLY BEEN FIGHTING BETWEEN ADVANCE GUARDS AND LIGHT MECHANISED UNITS.

IN HOLLAND, IT IS STATED, THE INTERNAL SITUATION HAS DISTINCTLY IMPROVED. THE GREATER PART OF THE AERODROMES SEIZED BY THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN REOCCUPIED BY THE DUTCH,

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

18.5.1940
Saturday.

Narvik

EFFINGHAM Loss

EFFINGHAM with Battalion of S. Wales Borderers proceeding in company with COVENTRY, CAIRO, MATABELE, ECHO & Bodo, struck submarted rock in position 67° 17.6' N., 13° 58' E. at 2045 yesterday 17/5 and is total loss. All C.B.'s and S.P.'s destroyed, no casualties. Only other damage MATABELE's starboard propeller and "A" structure, speed reduced to 20 knots. Force returned to Harstad. (F.O. Narvik, 0900/18, Rupert 0755/18)

Cannot EFFINGHAM be beached somewhere where her A/A armament can be used? (V.C.N.S. 1356/18)

NP3 Arrived yesterday DELIGHT, ANTELOPE, MILAN 2000/17 (F.O. Narvik 1317/18)

GLORIOUS Fly off 263 Sqn. 0600/21. 46 Sqn. cannot be received until 26/5. after flying off 263 Sqn. proceed to UK & refuel then return to Narvik area & fly off 46 Sqn. (F.O. Narvik 2231/18)

LUXEMBOURG FRONTIER AREA. THE GERMANS ALSO ATTACKED YESTERDAY

TO ENLARGE THEIR FRONT BY AN ATTACK EAST OF THE MOSELLE.

AFTER YESTERDAY'S VIOLENT SHELLING IN THE FORBACH AND VOSGES SECTORS, THE GERMANS ATTACKED IN THE AREAS OF FORBACH, THE SAAR AND THE SALIENT OF OHRENTHAL WEST OF THE VOSGES. ADVANCE POSTS FELL BACK TO SUPPORT LINES IN THE REAR, BUT THE RETREAT WAS INSIGNIFICANT, AND THE ATTACK WAS MORE IN THE NATURE OF A LARGE-SCALE RAID THAN A REALLY BIG ATTACK.

AIR FIGHTING IN GENERAL CONTINUES VIOLENT, WITH THE GERMANS BUSY DIVE-BOMBING AND MACHINE-GUNNING. --REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

18.5.1940
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

Narvik.

GLORIOUS
FURIOUS

As GLORIOUS and FURIOUS took only such aircraft stores for the R.A.F. fighters and the Narvik Walrus Squadron as could be flown ashore in the aircraft in their one trip from ship to shore, there does not appear to be any necessity for these ships to risk being bombed by entering the Narvik area. GLORIOUS to confirm this. (M.S.L. 570 Narvik, 0232/18) Reply, ~~which~~ arrangements do not necessitate approach within 100 miles of Narvik (R.A.(A) 0943/18)

~~Report~~ report.

~~ELFINGHAM with Bde H.Q. Sig. Section and Second SWB rejoin mobs night 17th-18th near Bodo. Understand total loss. Troops arrived back at Harstad without loss of life early this morning. (Rupert to Harpers, London. 0755/18)~~

"Hunt" Class

R.A.(D) H.F.'s 1058/17. Concur "Hunt" class eminently desirable in this area. It is, however, for the present most important 3 destroyers are maintained in this area owing to their larger carrying capacity. (F.O., Narvik, 1019/18)

THE GERMANS IN NARVIK WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

"AT BJERVIK THE NUMBER OF ALLIED FORCES IS INCREASING STEADILY.

"BUT WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE GERMANS HAVE SECURED EXCELLENT DEFENCE POSITIONS, AND IN ORDER TO AVOID UNNECESSARY LOSS OF LIFE, OPERATIONS ARE PROCEEDING SLOWLY BUT VERY SURELY.

"THANKS TO OUR ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS GERMAN PLANES ARE NOT NOW SO EFFECTIVE."

THE COMMANDER ADDED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF GERMANS HAD BEEN CAPTURED WEARING NORWEGIAN UNIFORMS WHICH HAD BEEN STOLEN FROM AN ARMY DEPOT AT ELVEGAARDSMOEN. --REUTER.

S-1

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Dutch Coast.

~~15~~ 18.5.1940
~~Thursday~~
Saturday.

Terschelling LV Embarkation of crew of Lr. V. by L23 (Anticipated light will burn till 19/5, nothing on board sabotaged and W/T equipment available should any one board and use it (Comdr.(S) Harwich 1915/18)

~~Dieppe Reported by magnetic mines. Hospital, 2 destroyed. French Motor Launch Patrol (MGB) Dieppe 01~~

THOUGH A FEW CENTRES OF RESISTANCE REMAIN HERE AND THERE.

THERE IS LITTLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS TO THE POSITION AT THE FRONT. THE DUTCH ARE HARD PRESSED, BUT APPEAR TO BE REMAINING ON THE WHOLE IN THE SAME POSITIONS EXCEPT AT A FEW POINTS WHERE THEY HAVE WITHDRAWN IN CONSEQUENCE OF GERMAN PRESSURE.

DURING YESTERDAY AND LAST NIGHT THE MARCH OF THE BULK OF THE ALLIED FORCES CONTINUED NORMALLY, AND IS EVEN IN ADVANCE OF SCHEDULE.

THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, AND THE KING IN PARTICULAR, HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE VERY SATISFIED.

THE BATTLE CONTINUES TO RAGE IN LUXEMBOURG, AND YESTERDAY WAS MARKED BY A SERIES OF VIOLENT ATTACKS BY THE ENEMY WITH VARYING RESULTS - SOME HAD LOCAL SUCCESSES AND OTHERS WERE COMPLETELY HELD.

A BATTLE IS BEING FOUGHT ON THE FRENCH FRONTIER NEAR SIERCK AND THE MOSELLE, AT THE POINT WHERE THE FRENCH, GERMAN AND

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.+
Operations.

18.5.1940
Saturday.

Operation XD.

Following demolished at Antwerp by Party "D":
Operation XD. Approx. 150,000 tons petrol and oils, dry docks, all heavy cranes over 70 tons lifting capacity. One lock blocked, one lock not blocked. No casualties to Party. (Vice. Dover 1605/8)

16.49 AUSTRALIAN CABINET CONSIDERS BLITZKRIEG

CANBERRA, MAY 13.: THE WAR CABINET SAT FOR TEN HOURS TODAY CONSIDERING WAR PLANS IN THE LIGHT OF THE GERMAN INVASION OF THE LOW COUNTRIES.

NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED, BUT IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT HEADS OF THE FIGHTING SERVICES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO TENDER ADVICE ON HOW AUSTRALIA'S FORCES CAN BE STRENGTHENED.

THERE IS NO LIKELIHOOD OF ANY NEW DIVISIONS BEING RAISED IMMEDIATELY.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS INCREASING THE FORCES MUST BE THE SPEEDING UP OF SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, SPECIALLY IN THE MUNITIONS FIELD, MANY OF THE MAIN SECTIONS OF INDUSTRY WOULD BE CONVERTED TO A WAR-TIME BASIS, INVOLVING THE RESTRICTION OF MANY CIVILIAN SUPPLIES.

M-1 --REUTER

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

18.5.1940
Saturday.

Operation Lustre, (DF and EF)

Proceeding (F.O.D.E., 0852/18)

Expected time of arrival, first ships 1200, last 1430.
(VEGA, 1022/18)

Anchor at Great Nore. Demolition parties will meet you.
You may have to sail again. (C in C Nore, 1129/18)

Commander Peterson and all his ships are now returning to Dover. Inform him by W/T through Trawler that operation reported to in Admty. 0002/17 is taking place tomorrow (Sunday) at approx. time stated in para 2. All available units are to contact and accompany convoy which will approach along 60 Q.Z.S. and 85 Q.Z.S. tonight, Saturday, then sweep ahead into harbour. (D.M.S., 1317/18 to C in C Nore) Repeated to ARCTIC HUNTER, ASAMA + VEGA, (C in C Nore, 1427/18)

Sail forces D and E for Operation DF and EF
(O.D.(H) 1508/18)

Escort and sweepers are to remain with Forces D and E.
(C in C Nore, 1857/18)

F.O.D.E. has returned and anchored Prince's Channel. Join him if daylight permits, otherwise anchor as convenient in swept channel (C in C Nore 1954/18)

10.27 PLEA FOR JOINT PEACE AIM MEMORANDUM.

PARIS, FEB 26: A PLEA FOR A JOINT MEMORANDUM DEFINING THE ALLIED PEACE AIMS IS MADE BY PERTINAX IN "L'ORDRE" THIS MORNING.

THE MEMORANDUM, WHEN DRAWN UP, HE SAYS, SHOULD BE BINDING ON BOTH TH BRITISH AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENTS.

DECLARING THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN DIFFERENCES OF EXPRESSION BETWEEN THE SPEECHES OF M. DALADIER AND MR CHAMBERLAIN WHICH MAY SOW THE SEEDS OF MISUNDERSTANDING, HE SAYS:

"M. DALADIER'S EXPRESSION 'MATERIAL AND POSITIVE GUARANTEES OF PEACE' IS PREFERABLE TO MR CHAMBERLAIN'S 'TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT WILL SATISFY US THAT ANY PLEDGES OR ASSURANCES GIVEN WILL BE FULFILLED'.

"HAS NOT THE TIME COME TO PREVENT THE DIFFERENCES OF EXPRESSION WHICH APPEAR FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE THOUGHT OF THE BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS ON THE NATURE OF THE PEACE.

"WHY NOT SHOW BY ONE DOCUMENT BINDING ON BOTH LONDON AND

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS

18.5.40
~~Friday~~
Sat.

~~Submarine~~ Movements

~~CALYPSO~~ ~~French S/M. left Harwich 1210 17th May (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1212/17)~~

~~1022~~ ~~A/C of 269 Squadron reports attacked enemy S/M at 6456 3454 with bombs dive and estimates one hit (A/C 269 Squadron to Wick 1022/18)~~

WITHERINGTON
MASHONA

In order to provide a screen for Battle Fleet and Battle Cruisers WITHERINGTON is to take the place of MASHONA with TC 4. MASHONA proceeds to Scapa with all convenient despatch. Sailing of NS4 to be postponed until escort is available for TC 4. (CiC HF 1252/18 to RA (2))

HAVE FOUND A MORE BRILLIANT TEAM IF HE HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR PERSONAL TALENT ALONE BUT HE REALISED THAT GREAT BRITAIN WAS A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND ITS WAR EFFORT HAD TO BE DIRECTED BY THOSE WHO COMMANDED THE GREATEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT IN PARLIAMENT.

"THE LLOYD GEORGE PRECEDENT HAS BEEN FOLLOWED TOO IN THE COMPACTNESS OF THE NEW WAR CABINET. THE SUPREME POWER WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF FIVE MEN VIRTUALLY FREE FROM DEPARTMENTAL BURDENS. THE THREE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF COMPARATIVELY YOUNG AND ACTIVE MINISTERS.

"IN MANY OF HIS OTHER APPOINTMENTS NOTABLY THE CHOICE OF MR HERBERT MORRISON FOR THE ALL IMPORTANT MINISTER OF SUPPLY, MR CHURCHILL HAS LET A BREATH OF FRESH AIR INTO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

"HE HAS SHOWN ALREADY THAT HE IS REVIVING THE LLOYD GEORGE TRADITION OF ENERGETIC LEADERSHIP IN WARTIME. NO BRITISH STATESMAN SINCE MR LLOYD GEORGE HAS FACED SUCH TERRIFYING PROBLEMS. NONE HAS HAD SUCH A SUPREME OPPORTUNITY." --REUTER.

SECRET

18.5.1940
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Movements.

JACINTH C in C HF 1852/18 (screen for Battle Fleet and Battle Cruisers) JACINTH to sail for Harstad escorted by 2 A/S trawlers (D of O (H) 1923/18)

AT THE SAME TIME, ALL VOYAGES TO, FROM OR VIA THE MEDITERRANEAN AND/OR BLACK SEA, WHETHER UNDER ALLIED OR NEUTRAL FLAGS, WILL AS FROM TOMORROW, BE CHARGED AT THE RATE OF 100/- PER CENT, AGAINST 60/- PREVIOUSLY, WHILE VOYAGES BETWEEN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE AND ALGERIA WILL BE CHARGED AT 60/- PER CENT, AGAINST 30/-. --REUTER

M-2

15.04 GERMAN PLANES OVER GHENT.

GHENT, MAY 10: NUMEROUS ENEMY PLANES HAVE FLOWN OVER GHENT SINCE 5.30 THIS MORNING. ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS OPENED A VIGOROUS FIRE ON THEM. --REUTER.

S-1

HOME COMMANDS. 18.5.40
Sat.

SECRET

Precautions.

Harwich balloon barrage. Your 1751/16. Any increase in Harwich Balloon barrage at this stage will be at expense of existing barrages. Further balloons not considered justified unless importance of Harwich has materially increased (Air Min. 1235/18)

Offshores aerodrome. Experience of Dutch Officer who landed there. No measures on aerodrome which would ~~prevent~~ have prevented him doing damage. Steps ~~to~~ to be taken at all aerodromes (Air Min. 0915/18)

Search of neutral ships.

Your 1412/15 [*]. Police are not available for this service. ~~Matter has been examined by~~ Chiefs of Staff Sub Committee ~~and following~~ has ~~been~~ agreed that:-

"Authority should be given to Customs Service to carry out a search of neutral ships in British ports.

2. Army armed guards will be available to assist the Customs authorities in carrying out this task.

1959/18. to C.C Nore)

(D. of L.D.

[*] Placement of guards on board Merchant Ships pending examination by Customs and security police to prevent arrival of German troops or stores.

10.23. STRONGER DEFENCES FOR U.S.A.

.....WASHINGTON, MAY 13.....STRONGER MOBILE DEFENCE FORCES TO SAFEGUARD THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AT ANY THREATENED POINT, AND AN ACCELERATION IN THE MANUFACTURE OF MUNITIONS ARE AMONGST THE RECOMMENDATIONS EMBODIED IN A REPORT SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT, IT IS STATED IN ADMINISTRATION QUARTERS.

THE REPORT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED IN THE LIGHT OF PRESENT EUROPEAN EVENTS.

OFFICIALS EXPECT THAT AS A RESULT OF THE REPORT, A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE ARMY AND NAVY WILL BE READY FOR CONGRESS EARLY IN THE WEEK.

CONGRESSMEN WHO ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH DEFENCE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT A REVISION OF THE ESTIMATES OF MILITARY NEEDS WOULD RESULT IN PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ASKING FOR AS MUCH AS 500,000,000 DOLLARS.

SOME LEGISLATORS, WHO FORESEE DEMANDS FOR COSTLY ADDITIONS

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Precautions.

18.5.1940
Saturday.

Immobilising Ports.

~~I have received~~ Re. reports from N.O.I.C. Leith, Dundee and Aberdeen of meetings ~~which have been~~ convened to discuss the steps to be taken to immobilise their ports in emergency. ~~Instructions for these meetings came from Rear Admiral Scottish Command, acting on instructions from higher sanctioning authority.~~ I received no notice of ~~any such~~ meetings and was not represented. As it is considered that immobilisation of ports in U.K. must be a matter of ~~great~~ concern to the Admiralty, request I may be informed of policy of ~~their Lordships~~ T.L. with regard to the immobilisation of ports in my command.
(C-in-C Rosyth, 1151/18)

Your 1151. Policy is under discussion with ~~War Office~~ W.O. Preliminary arrangements are being made for military Commands in conjunction with the naval and harbour authorities concerned to reconnoitre and prepare schemes for the immobilisation of certain ports for a period of 7-10 days. You will be informed as soon as decision is reached. (O of LD 2040/18)

German threats reprisals

For ~~our~~ alleged bombing ~~actions in Germany last night~~ ~~in which they say we attacked~~ open towns. ~~Heavy~~ Attacks ~~on this country~~ must be expected ~~tonight~~ or in the immediate future (Air Min. 2000/18 & Adty 2025/18)

13.14. TODAY'S BELGIAN COMMUNIQUE

.....BRUSSELS, MAY 11.....THIS MORNING'S BELGIAN COMMUNIQUE SAYS CONCISELY THAT THE ARMY IS IN CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY AND THAT YESTERDAY THERE WAS FIGHTING ON THE ALBERT CANAL, ON THE MEUSE AND IN THE ARDENNES. --REUTER

CH-1

Policy.

18.5.40
Saturday

SECRET

If the battle on the western front does not go favourably the possibility of invasion of the U.K. will have to be faced. It is therefore undesirable to disperse our forces at present to reinforce our ocean forces, particularly since RODNEY, RENOWN, and VALIANT are the only up-to-date capital ships in Home waters (MSH)

THE TONGRES REGION.

THERE IS VERY VIOLENT FIGHTING ALL ALONG THE FRANCO-LUXEMBOURG FRONTIER.

EAST OF THE MOSELLES THERE HAS BEEN FIGHTING, BUT OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE.

IT IS EMPHASISED HERE THAT WE ARE AT THE BEGINNING OF A GREAT BATTLE WHICH WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE MASS OF THE OPPOSING FORCES ARE IN CONTACT.

THE FIGHTING HAS SO FAR BEEN PRELIMINARY ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN ADVANCE GUARDS AND "CAVALRY" (LIGHT MECHANISED UNITS).

M-2 --REUTER

SITUATION REPORT. 18.5.40
Friday
Saturday

SECRET

Mediterranean

Reinforcements. The third group, comprising one A/A Cruiser and 9 destroyers, left Plymouth 2100/17 and 0700/18.

09.49 SHIPS REPORTED SUNK OFF SWEDEN. MAZ 13

A FINNISH SHIP AND A STEAMER OF UNKNOWN NATIONALITY SANK YESTERDAY IN THE OERESUND, ACCORDING TO SWEDISH REPORTS QUOTED BY THE GERMAN WIRELESS LAST NIGHT.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THEY STRUCK DRIFTING MINES, IT WAS ADDED. --REUTER.

S-2

SITUATION REPORT 18.5.40
Saturday

SECRET

Norway.

Mines laid. F.A.A. a/c's from Hatston laid mines in Haugesund night 17/18 May (MSH)

Heavy enemy air attacks in the Narvik area continue. F.O. Narvik is keeping as many as possible of his unarmed ships at sea out of harm's way until fighter protection is available.

Considerable military activity is reported at Trondheim.

11.53 ITALIANS DEMONSTRATE ON YUGOSLAV FRONTIER.

BELGRADE, MAY 15 (DELAYED) IT IS LEARNED FROM SUSAK, THE YUGOSLAV FRONTIER TOWN OPPOSITE THE ITALIAN TOWN OF FIUME, THAT DURING A LARGE DEMONSTRATION BY INHABITANTS OF FIUME TODAY, DEMONSTRATORS CAME RIGHT UP TO THE YUGOSLAV FRONTIER AND SHOUTED CRIES AGAINST THE ALLIES, TO THEY ADDED "DOWN WITH YUGOSLAVIA."

THE DEMONSTRATORS ALSO SEIZED STONES AND THREW THEM AT HOUSES IN SUSAK, BREAKING A NUMBER OF WINDOWS. THE ITALIAN POLICE DID NOT INTERFERE.

THE YUGOSLAV PRESS HAS BEEN ORDERED BY THE AUTHORITIES NOT TO MENTION THAT CRIES WERE RAISED AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA, BUT SIMPLY TO SAY THAT THEY WERE DIRECTED AGAINST "A NEUTRAL

SECRET

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING 17.5.1940

S/M's Reported

0245. Westward of German minefield, North Sea. Position indefinite. (I.C., 0453/40)

1255 } * miles NE of N. Forland 51°30'N 1°35'E. P/S
1309 } seen by Observer Corps from shore. B4 (IC 0454/40)

1921 54°10'N 6°10'E - Ln definite (IC 0454/40)

Estimated dispositions Absence of indications of U/B's at sea suggests a considerable number are available for any special operations. (DDIC, 1341/17)

10.56 "FRANCE STANDING FOUR SQUARE TO GIGANTIC BATTLE"

PARIS, MAY 16: "FRANCE IS STANDING FOUR-SQUARE TO THE GIGANTIC BATTLE NOW TAKING PLACE FROM BELGIUM TO THE FRENCH FRONTIER," SAYS M. CHARLES MORICE, THE MILITARY COMMENTATOR IN THE 'PETIT PARISIEN', THIS MORNING.

"ALL FACTORS MILITATE IN FAVOUR OF UNQUALIFIED CONFIDENCE," HE SAYS.

"THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE GERMAN ARMY HAS MET AN ADVERSARY PROPERLY PREPARED AND EQUIPPED.

"THE GERMAN ARMY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MEET WITH DIFFICULTIES. OUR ARTILLERY IS TERRIFIC. AGAINST THEIR TANKS, OUR DIFFERENT CALIBRE GUNS ARE DOING WONDERS."

IN 'LE JOUR', THE FRENCH DEPUTY, M. FERNAND LAURENT, SAYS, "OUR TANKS ARE ASSERTING THEIR SUPERIORITY.

"TODAY, UNLIKE 1918, OUR AMMUNITION SUPPLIES ARE IMMENSE. FROM THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, PLANES ARE ARRIVING FOR US [illegible] COMPELS US TO HAVE FAITH AND HOPE."

SECRET

17.5.40
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS +

America + West Indies.

RHAKOTIS — buy 1859/16. RHAKOTIS also commenced painting superstructure grey before sailing. (SO!, Callao 1637/17)

Shipping at Tampico.
ORINOCO
IDARVALD
PHRYGIA
RHEIN

Re. press reports 15/5 of imminence of sailing of German ships from Tampico, it has been confirmed from Tampico that + ships have been ready to sail for a long time, but there is no indication that they intend to sail immediately (17/5) (1604544/40)

B-1 SEE 19.....

17.31 BUDGET FLASH...59

SIMON TURNED DOWN THE KEYNES SCHEME.

B-1 --/437534

''''' '''''

SECRET

17-5-40
~~29-4-40~~
~~Monday.~~
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
~~South Atlantic.~~
Australia

AUSTRALIA — Admty 1730/5. Commonwealth Govt. agree to HMAS AUSTRALIA being made available for service on 19th June for period of not less than year in exchange for an 8-in cruiser of R.N. C.N.B. appreciate that arrangement may not be practicable for some time. (ACNB 1059 Z/17)

China.

Obliterating ~~St~~ M.V's names etc. — S.O.(I)'s to inform shipping that as indiscriminate attack is unlikely on China Station ~~ships~~ the instructions that ships are to obliterate names and port of registry do not apply (Ci C China 1030/17)

HONGKONG..1/2-15/16 SHANGHAI..4-1/8 [illegible]

NEW ZEALAN[illegible]

BOMBAY ON LDN..1/5-31/32 REUTER

CH-1

C15.47 WARNING BY BELGIAN DEFENCE MINISTER.

BRUSSELS, MAY 17: "THE SITUATION IS REASSURING", LIEUT-GENERAL DENIS, BELGIAN MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, DECLARED TODAY.

"WE MUST BEWARE OF OUR NERVES, AND ABOVE ALL OF THE NERVES OF BADLY INFORMED PERSONS." -REUTER

B-2

[illegible] SWITZERLAND ON THE ALERT

FOREIGN STATIONS

SECRET

17.5.40
Friday.

Australia

U.S.3. Sailed from Fremantle with following personnel QUEEN MARY 4381 AQUITANIA 3200 EMPRESS OF BRITAIN 1900 MAURITANIA 2300 EMPRESS OF CANADA 1300 EMPRESS OF JAPAN 1150 ANDES 1450. Each ship provisioned for 36 days & all types plus seven days dry stores. (Australian C.N. Board to C-in-C South Atlantic 1449 Z/16)

~~U.S.2 French Cruiser SUFFREN arrived Suez with the Convoy U.S.2. (SBNO Suez Cancl to Admty 0427/17)~~

My 04322/9. In view of Italian situation should then vessels be routed via Cape Town (ACNB.0144Z/17 to Admty.

TROOPS HAVE TAKEN UP NEW POSITIONS WITH CALM AND IN GOOD ORDER.

"DESPITE THE MANY AND HARD ENGAGEMENTS IN WHICH MANY UNITS HAVE TAKEN PART SINCE HOSTILITIES BEGAN, OUR ARMY REMAINS INTACT AND RETAINS ITS HIGH MORALE." --REUTER.

S-2

15.39. QUIET SESSION ON STOCK EXCHANGE MAY 17.

AN EXCEEDINGLY QUIET SESSION WAS WITNESSED TODAY, BUT AN AIR OF QUIET CONFIDENCE PREVAILED.

GILT-EDGED MOVED NARROWLY, FINISHING UNCHANGED TO 1/16 HIGHER.

KAFFIRS WERE ALSO OCCASIONALLY BETTER AND THE FOREIGN MARKET, AS A WHOLE, WAS BRIGHT, PARTICULARLY FAR AND NEAR EASTERN ISSUES.

INDUSTRIALS MOVED IRREGULARLY, SMALL GAINS PREDOMINATING.

BURMAH WERE A BRIGHT FEATURE IN OILS RISING FROM 3-7/32 TO 3-11/32 ON THE DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENT.

HOME RAILS OPENED FIRMER BUT SUBSEQUENTLY REACTED ON OFFERINGS FROM THE PROVINCES. --REUTER

FOREIGN STATIONS

SECRET

America & West Indies

17.5.40
Friday.

~~Canadian military authorities will have approximately forty-eight hundred troops ready to embark Halifax on 3rd June. Request for transport and escort~~ required for 4800 troops ready at Halifax 3/6 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to Admty. 1809/16)

~~894~~ Your 0222/12~~th May~~. After local escort duties on ~~24th May~~ 24/5 one destroyer will be at your disposal. Assume you will issue orders regarding when she will part company from convoy and return to Bermuda.

TCS

Your 1320/16~~th May~~. Military unit sailing in parts in ~~S.S. VOZO~~ LADY DRAKE first sailing 24th May and second about 6th June from Halifax. ~~C.O.A.C. Halifax inform Captain (D).~~ (CNS Ottawa 1713/17. 7th C:C(AW1)

* One destroyer required to escort troop transport to Jamaica.

† Date ~~requested~~ by which H.M.S. DIOMEDE is required to escort troop transport.

TCS ~~258~~. C.N.S. Ottawa 1713 17th May if H.M.S. EMERALD is not required to supplement H.M.S. REVENGE as escort for T.C.5 it is probable she could be made available as escort for second part if this would help. (RA 3 BS 1842/17th C:C(AW1)

18.48 SWEDEN :: A GREAT SURPRISE.

STOCKHOLM, MAY 10: THE SWEDISH CABINET MET THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE NEW TURN OF EVENTS.

THE INVASION OF HOLLAND AND BELGIUM TOOK SWEDEN BY SURPRISE SINCE THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS HAD ALL EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT THE NEXT THEATRE OF WAR WOULD BE SOUTH-EAST EUROPE.

AN OPINION WIDELY EXPRESSED HERE IS THAT THE ALLIES NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET GERMANY WITHOUT ALL THE ADVANTAGES BEING ON HITLER'S SIDE.

WHILE THE INVASION OF HOLLAND AND BELGIUM BRINGS THE GERMAN STRIKING FORCES NEARER BRITAIN, IT ALSO CONFERS ON THE ALLIES THE ABILITY TO TACKLE THE NAZIS FROM BASES CLOSE AT HAND.

COMMENTING ON THE GERMAN EXCUSE FOR THE INVASION, 'AFTONBLADET' SAYS THAT "THIS METHOD IS NOW WELL-KNOWN."

THE SPEED AND DETERMINATION MARKING GERMANY'S EXECUTION OF HER PLANS, THE NEWSPAPER ADDS, CONTRASTS BADLY WITH THE THREE DAYS OF INTERNAL QUARRELS IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

"NOW ANYTHING MAY HAPPEN. WHILE SWEDEN IS AGAIN SPARED SHE CANNOT CHERISH SANGUINE HOPES THAT NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO HER.

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS 17.5.1940
Friday

America and West Indies.

Degaussing. Large number of ships arriving for Bermuda Convoy require degaussing or repairs to degaussing equipment. Minimum time to degauss 6 days in dockyard or 10 days private contract. Only 2 ships can be undertaken at same time. Is this delay acceptable in case of loaded ships?
(C.in C., A.W.I., 1330/17)

16.01 SWITZERLAND ON THE ALERT.

ZURICH, MAY 17: ALTHOUGH A SLIGHT EASING OF THE TENSION CONTINUES, THE SWISS ARE MAINTAINING THE UTMOST VIGILANCE ON ALL THEIR FRONTIERS.

THE MAN IN THE STREET IS WATCHING WITH THE GREATEST ATTENTION DEVELOPMENTS ON THE WESTERN FRONT. THESE ARE BEING OBJECTIVELY DISCUSSED IN NUMEROUS ARTICLES BY MILITARY CORRESPONDENTS, THE DECISIVE NATURE OF WHICH IS FULLY REALISED.

THE FLOW OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM ZURICH TO FRENCH SWITZERLAND WHICH WAS NEVER EXCESSIVE, IS DECREASING, AND DESPITE THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE SITUATION, SOME WHO LEFT BASLE ARE NOW RETURNING.

THE PUBLIC IS WITHDRAWING MONEY FROM THE BANKS, BUT ONLY MODERATE SUMS AS A PRECAUTION. --REUTER

B-2

16.03 REUTERS DAILY INDEX OF FRENCH INDUSTRIALS

PARIS BOURSE CLOSING QUOTATIONS. MAY 17.

TODAY 122.1, PREVIOUS 123.4

FOREIGN STATIONS.

17.5.40
Friday.

SECRET

East Indies

~~SUFFREN~~
US 2

~~RAMILLIES, Eyemouth Grainger~~ SUFFREN arrived Suez with Convoy U.S. 2
(S.D.N.O. Suez Canal to Adlty. 0927/17)

BY HUNDREDS." EVERYTHING COMPELS US TO [illegible]

S-I --REUTER.

11.09.

SECOND ADD...LIMITATION OF DIVIDENDS (10.28)...

RULES ARE LAID DOWN FOR THE COMPUTATION OF ORDINARY DIVIDEND, PAYMENT OF BONUS CAPITAL, THE CONVERSION OF SHARES - FROM ONE CLASS TO ANOTHER AND THE ALTERATION OF DIVIDEND ON ANY CLASS OF SHARES.

PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENTION OF THE DIVIDEND PROVISIONS INCLUDE THREE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE OF £100 OR BOTH ON SUMMARY CONVICTION; AND TWO YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE OF £500, OR BOTH ON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT. NO PERSON CONVICTED SHALL WITHIN FIVE YEARS BE A DIRECTOR OR TAKE PART IN THE

SECRET

17.5.40
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS
East Indies

FALMOUTH — Excessive wear in propeller shaft bush. To dock at Colombo 19/5. (C-in-C E.I. 1436/17)

LEANDER — To remain under East Indies Command for the present. (D.O.S. (f). 0041/17)

17.5.40
Friday

SECRET

East Indies

CARAIBE — French armed Fleet Auxiliary arrived Durban 1500 16th May from Tulear Madagascar (N.O.I.C. Durban to C-in-C. E. Indies 0805Z/17

Aden — Understand Admiralty have ordered evacuation to India of civil population numbering approx. 180 Europeans and 2000 Indians forthwith. ~~(D.O.S.T. 1038/17)~~ Re. ships to be used (D.O.S.T. 1038/17)

Shatt-el-Arab. — Situation — Italian ships unloading (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1015 2/17)

HILDA — Italian ship with cargo of explosives (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1059/17, 1834/17)

Qureibi. — ~~Air H.Q.~~ Aden 1024/17.

CH-1

15.44. STEAMER ATTACKED OFF S.E. COAST MAY 17.

ONE MEMBER OF THE CREW OF A STEAMER WAS KILLED AND THREE OTHERS WOUNDED WHEN THE VESSEL WAS MACHINE-GUNNED BY A NAZI PLANE OFF THE SOUTH-EAST COAST EARLY TODAY.

CH-1 REUTER

15.45. LONDON EXCHANGES MAY 17.

O F F I C I A L:

NEW YORK..4.0250/0350 PARIS..176.50/75 CANADA..4.43/47

BAIRES..17.05/30 SWISS..17.85/95 STOCKHOLM..16.85/95

U N O F F I C I A L:

ITALY..64.00 JAPAN..1/5-5/16 SINGAPORE..2/4-3/16

HONGKONG..1/6-15/16 SHANGHAI..4-1/64 AUSTRALIA..£125-0EXH

FOREIGN STATIONS

SECRET

17.5.40
Friday

Mediterranean

~~RAMILLIES Arrived Suez 14th May (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal to Admty 0927/17)~~

Reinforcements ~~130.~~ V Your 1951/15~~th May.~~ Intended to sail ~~H.M.Ships~~ CARLISLE HAVOCK HEREWARD HERO and IMPERIAL about 2100/17~~th May.~~ Captain D.14 in ~~H.M.S.~~ JANUS with ~~H.M.S.~~ JUNO MOHAWK ILEX and KIMBERLEY to sail later when Royal Air Force stores have been embarked. ~~H.M.S.~~ GRIMSBY to sail independently when ready. (C-in-C WA 1227/17)

Danger ~~area.~~ Attaché Genoa informed

Rpt. A A Defences at Alexandria.

Admy. 0003/15 (~~Re~~ Italian escorts and escorted vessels not to be interfered with) will withhold order as long as possible but present situation is most unsatisfactory on account of permission given for Italian bombers to pass through Egypt landing at Alexandria. Squadrons are due ~~on May 19th~~ 19/5 and ~~May 26th~~ 26/5 and I consider warning Government to be urgently asked to withdraw this permission or at least prohibit use of aerodromes near Alexandria. Understand French aircraft are now proceeding via Abadan to Syria so no question or reciprocity arises. (C-in-C Med 1319/17)

16.19 ITALIAN BUDGET DEFICIT.

ROME, MAY 17: "THE ITALIAN PEOPLE PRESS ROUND YOU, DUCE, TO FORM A BODY OF ENERGY AND WILL, READY FOR YOUR ORDERS, BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT THE PATH YOU WILL CHOOSE HAS AS ITS AIM THE GREATNESS AND POWER OF ITALY", SAID COUNT SUARDO, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, ADDRESSING THE SENATORS IN THE PRESENCE OF SIGNOR MUSSOLINI AFTER THE PASSING OF THE BUDGET TODAY.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE SAID THAT A DEFICIT WAS INEVITABLE IN VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS WHICH WERE BEYOND THE WILL OF MEN.

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1939-40, ESTIMATED AT 29,316 MILLION LIRE, HAD RISEN TO 35,975 MILLIONS AND IN CONSEQUENCE THE DEFICIT HAD RISEN FROM 4,755 MILLIONS AS ESTIMATED TO 6,235 MILLIONS.

EXPENDITURE FOR 1940-41, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES, WAS ESTIMATED AT 56,140 MILLION LIRE LEAVING A DEFICIT OF 26,000 MILLIONS.

IN SIX YEARS FASCIST FINANCE HAD ASSURED THE COVERING OF EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE AMOUNTING TO 74,000 MILLION LIRE ALTHOUGH THE BUDGETARY BURDEN HAD REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED.

SECRET

17.5.40
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

ALBANIAN PORTS, defences placed — Durazzo reports approaches to all Albanian ports have been mined and boom placed at Durazzo Harbour entrance (S.O.I. Malta to Adty. 1401/17)

~~French Oiler~~ RANCE — French oiler Arrived Gibraltar 17th. May 1715 and sailed eastwards 1923 (S.O.I. Gibraltar to Adty. 2334/17)

EGYPT AIR DEFENCES — Fifty Hurricanes are being prepared for flying out to Egypt at the end of June (MSM).

DIVERSION OF SHIPPING — D.T.D. reported that no more ships were being allowed to enter the Mediterranean. Admiralty tankers west of Aden were continuing to Suez but other traffic was being diverted round the Cape (MSM).

AASE MAERSK. — Managers report that Master and Officers refuse to sail. Report reason (DTD 0236/17 to NCSO Haifa) Fear of reprisals on their families in Denmark (NOIC Haifa 1907/17)

Gibraltar — Understand Colonial Office have ordered evacuation of civil population to be implemented forthwith. Re shipping arrangements (D of ST 1045/17)

T09.18 ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE ON SOUTH COAST. MAY 16.

THERE WAS A HEAVY BURST OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNFIRE OVER A SOUTH COAST PORT EARLY TODAY.

SEARCHLIGHTS SWEPT THE SKY.

NO AIR RAID WARNING WAS SOUNDED AND NO BOMBS WERE DROPPED. THE WHOLE INCIDENT DID NOT LAST VERY LONG. --REUTR.

S-2

09.20 A.A. FIRE HEARD IN PARIS.

PARIS, MAY 16: A SHORT SPELL OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE WAS HEARD IN PARIS AT 06.00 THIS MORNING.

FIVE AIR RAID ALARMS WERE SOUNDED YESTERDAY IN NORTH WEST FRANCE AND SEVEN OR EIGHT, LASTING ABOUT ONE HOUR EACH, IN NORTH FRANCE. NO INCIDENTS ARE REPORTED. --REUTER.

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS
South Atlantic

17.5.40
Friday

Enemy mines.

Following QGA 29 issued from Capetown. Agulhas Bank. Enemy moored mines have been laid on bank. All ships should avoid passing over Bank within 100 fathom line.

(SO i/c, Colombo, 0344/17 to all concerned) ~~See Situation Report~~ Mines may have been laid by suspicious ship seen near St. Helena 2/5. (DC 1925/17)

Suspicious ships.

A vessel is reported to have been sighted at 1500/2 by SS CITY OF EXETER in 16°38'S 1°12'E (600 miles West of Portuguese West Africa.) She had Japanese colours painted on the side, but there is believed to be no Japanese ships in this area. The SS SCIENTIST which is overdue at Freetown would have been in this area 3/5. (I.C.O 454/40)

Suspicious ship sighted 4/5 26°10'S 26°30'W described as 10,000 dt type steam driven tanker, fully loaded, black funnel and hull, grey upperworks. Steering NW 10 knots.

Reference this report, the German tanker WINNETOU (5115 tons) built 1913, reciprocating steam engines is misreported. Left Las Palmas 9/4 and could have been in the ~~point~~ above position at the time sighted. German tanker RUDOLF ALBRECHT, (3815 tons) built 1922, reciprocating steam engines, left Azores 8/5 and has not been reported since, and may therefore be acting as a supply ship (IC.0454/40)

...SPIRATORS WAS GETNG STRICTLY WATCHED. -REUTER

B-1

09.25 AMERICAN AMBULANCES MACHINE-GUNNED.

NEW YORK, MAY 16: MR. J.W. JOHNSON, HEAD OF THE AMERICAN VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS FOR FRANCE, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT FOUR OF THE CORPS' AMBULANCES ON THE WESTERN FRONT HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY DESTROYED BY GUNFIRE "DIRECTED" BY A GERMAN PLANE IN A "DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THEM."

"A GERMAN PLANE DIRECTED ARTILLERY FIRE ON THESE AMBULANCES. IT WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT." --REUTER

B-1

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS
North Atlantic

17.5.40
Friday

AMC's. My 2258/16 and 1822/15 Admiral Africa is in agreement with my initial dispositions. French dispositions in my 459/16 can be maintained (FOCNA 1132/17)

REX Passed West to East 1430 without entering (FOCNA 1512/17)

CONTE DI SAVOIA after voluntarily calling, proceeded westward (FOCNA 1446/17)

Danger area. Intercept. Genoa informed ~~TRIPOLI~~ Tripoli and Benghazi that it is necessary to avoid area Volturno between parallels 40°54'40" N and 41°0' N and meridians 13°52'50" E and 13°58'40" E because of submerged obstacle (SOC/Malta 1527/17)

09.21 URUGUAYANS SEEK ALL-AMERICAN RUPTURE WITH GERMANY.

MONTEVIDEO, MAY 16: A GROUP OF INFLUENTIAL URUGUAYANS HEADED BY THE FORMER PRESIDENT, M. SERRATO, HAVE PETITIONED PRESIDENT BALDOMIR TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS IN AN ATTEMPT TO SECURE THE BREAKING-OFF OF RELATIONS WITH GERMANY BY ALL THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS. --REUTER.

SECRET

17.5.40
Friday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

EFFINGHAM — Grounded, badly damaged (see Operations, Narvik).

MATABELE — Grounded, slight damage (do)

GUARDIAN — Grounded, damaged (see Operations, Iceland).

EXPLORATEUR GRANDIDIER — In collision in 0100/17 near Aitra Craig see Shipping.

JAN PIETERS ZOON COEN (11,140 tons) sunk in south entrance of NAALDWIJK (Tr.) Ymuiden as blockships ~~doing~~ by British Naval forces during operations in Holland.

DORIS — French s/m. Overdue and considered lost (DNI 2138/17)

ITALIAN PLANE SHOT DOWN IN YUGOSLAVIA REPORT.

BELGRADE, MAY 16: IT IS REPORTED HERE TODAY THAT AN ITALIAN PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN IN TUESDAY NIGHT AT OGULIN, WESTERN CROATIA, SOME 40 MILES FROM THE ITALIAN FRONTIER.

IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT YUGOSLAVIA FRONTIER BATTERIES WERE RECENTLY ORDERED TO FIRE ON ANY FOREIGN MILITARY PLANES CROSSING THE FRONTIER. --REUTER.

S-1

11.50 GERMAN ATTACKS AT SEDAN REPULSED.

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Enemy Intelligence

17.5.1940
Friday

Convoy attacked

At 0125, 2 destroyers accompanying 7 merchant vessels were sighted by a/c 10' N.W. Egersund, course 150. This convoy apparently joined up with another consisting of 5 ships escorted by 2 destroyers and both were in position approx. 60 miles W. of Hantsholm steering 100° at 0810. The ships were bombed, apparently without result. (I.C., 0453/40)

Aircraft reports

{Two destroyers and seven merchant vessels in JSND 3040 at 0125/17
(Duty Captain to S/M's on Patrol 0314/17)

Two destroyers, five merchant vessels in MBJR 5025 and two destroyers with seven M/V's in MBJV 4534 (A/C 224 Squadron to 18 Group R.H.Q. 0835/17)

Two convoys one of seven ships and two destroyers other of five ships and two destroyers at MBRU 0750 (A/C 233 Squadron to 18 R.H.Q. 0810/17)

Attacked enemy with bombs level. Estimate no hits (A/C 224 Squadron to 18 R.H.Q. 0857/17)

DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT ARE THREE POINTS DOWN. --REUTER

B-2

15.35 BANK OF ENGLAND BULLION MOVEMENT NIL. --REUTER

B-2

015.37 BELGIAN COMMUNIQUE.

SOMEWHERE IN BELGIUM, MAY 17: THE BELGIAN HIGH COMMAND ISSUED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE AT NOON TODAY:

"IN CONNECTION WITH OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE ALLIED FORCES AND IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH ALLIED TROOPS, BELGIAN

SECRET

17. 5. 40
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

M.V. hit

Two enemy convoys sighted by aircraft A.M. to-day off S. Norway course S.E. attacked and believed one M/V hit. (Adty to D.N.L.O. Marcean 1925/17)

16.37 WALL STREET : FIRST HOUR. MAY 17

TURNOVER 680,000 SHARES. DOW JONES' RAILS 26.46,

INDUSTRIALS 129.83, UTILITIES 20.88. --REUTER

B-2

16.38 PRIME MINISTER AT THE JAPANESE EMBASSY. MAY 17

THE PRIME MINISTER LUNCHED TODAY AT THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.

B-2 --REUTER

SECRET

17. 5. 40
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

LIFE BOAT SIGHTED — French steamer SAN MATEO reports sighting water-logged ship's lifeboat with name LONDON on it on 12th. May at 032.45 N. 012 12' W. (S.O.I. Gibraltar to Adty. 1232/17)

Weather

Area.	Wind.	Visibility.	Outlook.
North Sea.	N.E., Moderate.	Good, hazy on coast.	Similar.
Channel.	N.E., Moderate.	Moderate to Good.	Similar.
Western Approaches.	Variable, moderate.	Very Good.	S.E., moderate, moderate visibility.
Horns Reef.	N.E., Moderate to fresh.	Good.	Similar.
Terschelling.	East, Moderate.	Moderate to good.	N.E., Moderate. Visibility good.

"WE MUST BE PREPARED. SHOULD NOTHING HAPPEN - SO MUCH THE BETTER. BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO RELAX OUR WATCHFULNESS."

THE 'ALLEHANDA' SAYS THAT THE GERMAN FORMULA OF INADEQUATE NEUTRALITY DOES NOT BECOME MORE CONVINCING BY REPETITION.

ACTUALLY, IT SAYS, GERMANY, AS BEFORE, HAS CONSIDERED IT ADVISABLE TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE.

SPEAKING OF THE HETP THE ALLIES CAN BRING TO THE LOW COUNTRIES, THE PAPER SAYS THAT FOR THE "FIRST TIME THEY SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO COLLABORATE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE COUNTRIES ATTACKED."

NEUTRALS, IT ADDS, HAVE BEEN MERELY PAWNS IN GERMANY'S GAME.

"WE FOLLOW THE FATE OF THE SMALL, PEACEFUL NATIONS IMMEDIATELY BORDERING THE WAR ZONE WITH THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY. THEY ARE SQUEEZED BETWEEN TWO HUGE WAR MACHINES.

"THE FINAL STRUGGLE HAS BEGUN, AND ITS ISSUE WILL BE THE RESHAPING OF EUROPE." --REUTER

SECRET

17.5.1940

HOME COMMANDS
Miscellaneous

Swedish Destroyers — My 1021/15, fuelling of Swedish destroyers and depot ship at Queenstown and Kirkwall. Expect to sail for Queenstown via Vigo about 21/5. (N.A. Lisbon, 1558/17)

09.33 ALTMARK : NORWAY PROPOSES ARBITRATION.

OSLO, FEB 26: NORWAY HAS INFORMED BRITAIN THAT SHE WILL PROPOSE ARBITRATION IN THE ALTMARK DISPUTE IF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS ITS POSITION. --REUTER

B-2

09.34 SOUTH CHINA ORE EXPORTS.

TOKYO, FEB 26: THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES ARE GREATLY CONCERNED OVER THE INCREASING STRUGGLE AMONG FOREIGN POWERS TO ACQUIRE ORE FOR MUNITION PURPOSES IN SOUTH CHINA, ACCORDING TO THE 'ASAHI SHIMBUN' TODAY.

BRITAIN, FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS GERMANY AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE CONCERNED IN THE STRUGGLE, THE NEWSPAPER ADDS, AND THE UNITED STATES ARE EVEN CONSIDERING A 200,000

LAR L[illegible] R TIN ORE FROM THE KUMMING

SECRET

17. 5. 40
Friday.
–

HOME COMMANDS

~~Landing~~ ~~FACILITIES~~.
Iceland

Miscellaneous + Iceland
Landing facilities
At Reykjavik and Hafnarfjordur (Jolly, Reykjavik to Admty. 0930/17)

DISTRICT AND THE YUNNAN PROVINCE.

FIGURES PUPLISHED IN THE PAPER PURPORT TO SHOW THAT LAST YEAR SOUTH CHINA EXPORTED THOUSANDS OF POUNDS WORTH OF TIN, ANTIMONY AND TUNGSTEN ORE, PRINCIPALLY TO FRITAIN, FRANCE, GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES.

EXPORTS OF MUNITION ORE TO GERMANY, HOWEVER, HAVE FEEN SUSPENDED SINCE THE OUTFREAK OF THE EUROPEAN WAR, THE PAPER ADDS. --REUTER

B-2

09.35 ITAL -RUMANIAN TRADE TALKS.

ROME, FEB 26: ITALO-RUMANIAN TRADE TALKS WILL FEGIN IN BUCHAREST TODAY, IT IS LEARNED HERE. THE ITALIAN DELEGATION ARRIVED LAST NIGHT. --REUTER.

S-1

SECRET

17. 5. 40
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

EXPLORATEUR — French ship is missing in Convoy. (EPERVIER to N.O. 2/c Greenock 0450/17)
GRANDIDIER — Had collision about 0100 close Ailsa Craig. (EPERVIER to N.O. i/c Greenock 0830/17)

~~EVERAIDA — Latvian ship sailed from Kirkwall under Naval control to Grangemouth (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 0920/17)~~

CROSS, AND WHICH HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CROSSING AT SOME POINTS, ALTHOUGH THE ALLIES HAVE PREVENTED THEM FROM ENLARGING THEIR BRIDGEHEADS.

DISPASSIONATELY REVIEWING THE SITUATION THIS MORNING, THE WAR MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN NORTHERN BELGIUM, TO THE NORTH OF NAMUR, THE INSTALLATION OF THE BULK OF THE ALLIED FORCES HAD BEEN CARRIED AND WAS CONTINUING UNDER GOOD CONDITIONS. NO INSTALLATION OF GREAT MASSES OF MEN IN THIS WAY WAS EVER FINISHED. THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO B DONE.

THE ENEMY WAS NOW IN CONTACT WITH THE BULK OF OUR FORCES IN THEIR NEW POSITIONS AT GEMBLOUX. THE ENEMY ATTACK WAS NOT PRESSED VERY HARD AND WAS REPULSED WITH VERY HEAVY LOSSES FOR THE ENEMY, ESPECIALLY IN TANKS. THE POSITION IN NORTHERN BELGIUM THEREFORE APPEARED FAVOURABLE.

IN THE CENTRE AREA, ALONG THE MEUSE TO ITS JUNCTION WITH THE RIVER CHIERS THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO MAKE GREAT EFFORTS AND TO INCREASE THEM CONSTANTLY WITH THE ARRIVAL OF FRESH UNITS DEBOUCHING FROM LUXEMBOURG AND THE BELGIAN ARDENNES.

A BIG BATTLE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, WAS IN PROGRESS THERE. FOR THE MOMENT THE ENMY WAS TRYING FIRST TO LINE THE BANK OF

SECRET

17.5.1940
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS
Shipping.

Dutch Trawlers. All found north of a line joining Dover and Calais, whether fishing or not, should be captured + sent in (DSD, 1938/17)

Dutch shipping in German hands

It is estimated that approximately 242,994 tons of merchant shipping was in Dutch ports, ~~excluding Flushing~~, and consequently in German hands ~~on May~~ 17/5. This figure excludes ~~does not include~~ (a) ~~ship~~ at Ymuiden ~~as it seems~~ where it is probable that the few ships ~~there~~ present were sunk when the port was destroyed by the Allies. (b) Flushing, where ~~Nor does it~~ demolitions commenced 17/5 (c) ~~include~~ Ships launched with the last 3 months or still on the slips. of the 41 ships at Rotterdam totalling 207,555 tons, two, the STATENDAM (28391 tons) and ~~the~~ VEENDAM (15450 tons) are reported to have been badly damaged by fire.

N.C.S.O. returned from AMSTERDAM reported that only five ships over 1000 tons and only 23 smaller were left there (MSM).

CH-1

20.55.

THIRD ADD...NEW GOVT. APPOINTMENTS (20.20)...

THE GENERAL EFFECT OF ALL THE CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED UP TO THE PRESENT IS UNDOUBTEDLY TO GET A STRONGER AND MUCH MORE WIDELY SELECTED BODY.

IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT THERE ARE 29 CONSERVATIVES, 11 LABOUR REPRESENTATIVES, 4 SIMON LIBERAL REPRESENTATIVES, 3 OPPOSITION LIBERAL REPRESENTATIVES, ONE NATIONAL LABOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND 7 NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES. REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS. 17.5.40
Mining. Friday

East Coast Barrage.

529 AZ. East Coast mine Barrage. Serial No. 18. Line B.S.5 is about to be laid extending for 6.75 miles in a direction 360° from position 52° 56' N., 02° 56' E. (OOOO(M), 1141/17)

Extension of deep minefield between the Varne and Colbart shoals to be proceed under the orders of V.A., Dover. HAMPTON to be employed on this operation, mine being embarked at Portsmouth (OOOO(M)/1234/17).

Operations R.M.

125 mines were laid last night (MSH)

MAY LAST DAYS - FRENCH OFFICIAL VIEW.

PARIS, MAY 15: THE FRENCH WAR MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SUMMED UP THE POSITION THIS MORNING AS FOLLOWS:

IN NORTHERN BELGIUM THE SITUATION FAVOURABLE AND ALL IS CALM EAST OF THE CHIERS.

A GREAT BATTLE IS RAGING ON THE MEUSE, WHERE THE GERMANS HAVE CROSSED THE RIVER SOUTH OF SEDAN AND HOLD A SALIENT ABOUT FIVE MILES DEEP.

THEY HAVE ALSO CROSSED THE MEUSE AT TWO OR THREE POINTS NORTH OF DINANT, MAKING SMALL BRIDGEHEADS. ALL THESE CROSSINGS HAVE BEEN HELD BY THE FRENCH.

THE SITUATION IS GRAVE, IT IS ADDED, BUT THE BATTLE MAY LAST DAYS AND IS PROCEEDING NORMALLY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE BRITISH AND FRENCH AIR FORCES HAD OBTAINED "MAGNIFICENT RESULTS" AND THEIR WORK COULD NOT BE TOO HIGHLY PRAISED.

THEIR LOSSES HAD BEEN BETWEEN ONE-THIRD AND ONE-QUARTER OF THE ENEMY LOSSES.

THESE LOSSES, HE SAID, WERE ALREADY BEING BELT BY THE ENEMY WHO HAD BEEN RELAXING THE BOMBING OF BACK AREAS DURING

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Air.

17.5.1940
Friday

Enemy Air Activity

Narvik — 2 groups of enemy aircraft off Norwegian Coast. Appears to be unusual movement. May be directed against Narvik area. Position at 2010 59° 00' N, 05° 30' E and 68° 00' N, 16° 00' E. Total number about 30.
(OC, 2209/17)

11.52 U.S. AND WAR : AMERICAN PUBLISHER'S OPINION

SINGAPORE, FEB 26: IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE 'STRAITS TIMES', MR DEWITT WALLACE FOUNDER AND PUBLISHER OF THE READER'S DIGEST IS REPORTED AS EXPRESSING THE VIEW THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT STAND BY WITH FOLDED HANDS IN THE EVENT OF AN ADVERSE TURN IN THE SITUATI N OF THE ALLIES.

THE ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE RESULT OF THE RECENT POLL BY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS WHICH ESTIMATED THAT 77 PER CENT OF AMERICANS ARE AGAINST ARMED INTERVENTION IN THE EVENT OF THE DEFEAT OF BRITAIN AND FRANCE.

"MY FEELING IS THAT REGARDLESS OF ANY POLL, SENTIMENT MIGHT CHANGE AND CRYSTALLISE IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION QUITE RAPIDLY", HE IS STATED TO HAVE SAID. --REUTER

B-2

SECRET

17.5.40
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS
AW

POSITION OF AERODROMES IN NORWAY	D.N.I to C-in-C, Home Fleet 0044/17
ATTACKSON STAVANGER AERODROME	Donibristle to H.Q.C.C. 0720/17. Naval Annexe, Donibristle to Adty. 0420/17 ~~Donibristle~~ Dropped all bombs in salvo over runways (Donibristle to Adty. 0445/17)
RECONNOITRING NORWEGIAN COAST	One section of Blenheims leave Shetlands about 0630 to reconnoitre coast from 62° N. to 59° N. (C in C, Rosyth 0554/17)
Reconnaissance of German ports and harbours	Special photographic reconnaissance of the German ~~ports~~ main bases ^ was attempted twice 16/5, but was prevented by cloud (M.S.A.)

17.12. HEAVY DUTCH CASUALTIES

.....P A R I S, MAY 15.....M. VAN KLEFFENS, DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER, STATED THIS AFTERNOON THAT ONE-QUARTER OF HOLLAND'S ARMY OF 400,000 MEN HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE FIGHTING. --REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

17.5.40
Friday

HOME COMMANDS
Air

British Air Activity

Reconnaissances. To be flown daily until further orders.
(C in C Coastal 2214/17)

Air Searches for tomorrow (C in C Coastal 2044/17)

Squadron Commands. Maj 1254/17 and Air Min. X 501/17/5. 815, 819, 825 and 826 Sqdns. to come under operational control of Coastal Command as from receipt of this signal. (D.N.A.D., 2020/17)

Your 1335/17. As the war at sea is by no means over and as aircraft carriers and their squadrons may be required at their proper duties at any time, it is essential that these FAA squadrons should be maintained ready for embarkation in their ships. Admty, however, are agreeable to certain squadrons operating temporarily under Coastal Command on the distinct understanding that they are only used against sea targets or for Gardening or counter-invasion duties. Should not be used for operations overland without prior Admty. agreement. (D.N.A.D. 2009/17 to Air Minty)

THE MEUSE AND THEN TO CROSS THE RIVER.

HE HAD MADE MANY ATTEMPTS AT CROSSING, MOST OF WHICH WERE REPULSED, BUT SOME HAD UNFORTUNATELY SUCCEEDED AT TWO OR THREE POINTS NORTH OF DINANT, AND BETWEEN DINANT AND NAMUR.

AT THESE POINTS THE ENEMY HAD SUCCEEDED IN CROSSING THE MEUSE WITH HIS ADVANCE GUARDS AND IN MAKING SMALL BRIDGEHEADS. THESE HAD BEEN RINGED IN, AND COUNTER-ATTACKED WITH VARYING SUCCESS.

THE BATTLE THERE WAS STILL IN PROGRESS, AND THE SITUATION DID NOT APPEAR BAD.

ON THE OTHER HAND THE ENEMY HAD MADE A GREAT EFFORT IN THE DIRECTION OF SEDAN.

THE GERMANS, PROGRESSING FROM LUXEMBOURG ON THE LINE NEUFCHATEAU-BOUILLON-SEDAN HAD SENT CONSIDERABLE FORCES TO THE SEDAN REGION, THE BEST IN THE GERMAN ARMY.

THEY ATTACKED YESTERDAY AROUND SEDAN, SUCCEEDED IN CROSSING THE RIVER, AND FORMED A SALIENT SOME SIX TO SEVEN KILOMETRES DEEP (SOME FOUR MILES).

THE FRENCH NATURALLY IMMEDIATELY COUNTER-ATTACKED. AT THE END OF THE DAY THE SALIENT HAD BEEN HELD AND CONSOLIDATED BY THE FRENCH. A COUNTER-ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED ON THE EASTERN PART OF THE SALIENT WHICH PARTIALLY SUCCEEDED IN [illegible] THE ENEMY

SECRET

17.5.40

HOME COMMANDS. +
Operations.
Submarines.

CLYDE — Patrol report, May 3-15. (5.9, 1251/17) Arrived Dundee (5.9, 0613/17)

ACHILLE — Heard. Obliged to dive for last 48 hours owing to calm sea, moon, aircraft and surface patrols. Have been sighted on surface and closely bombed on 4 occasions. (ACHILLE 1221/17)

M09.32 B. E. F. COMMUNIQUE. MAY 15

THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED BY G.H.Q. LAST NIGHT:

"THE MOVE OF THE B.E.F. HAS PROCEEDED ACCORDING TO PLAN AND CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY HAS BEEN MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE DAY."

B-1 --REUTER

SECRET

17.5.1940
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS
Operations

Iceland - Operations Bork, Alabaster.

GUARDIAN, nettlaying, grounded.

Admty 1547/16. Expect to complete nettlaying Iceland approx. 22/5. Ship touched ground 16/5 damaging and putting out of action A.3 and B.7 oil fuel tanks, both reserve feeding tanks, after wireless compartment and floors close. Ship can safely steam but immediate docking or leaving Iceland essential, escort desirable. (GUARDIAN, 0930/17). Struck uncharted pinnacle rock in position 351° 1.3 miles from Engeyarfjall. May require re-survey. (Reykjavik, 2223/17)

Alabaster arrived.

Arrived noon, disembarkation of unit commenced 1700. (Stirpes, Alabaster, Reykjavik, 1636/17) Troops being landed throughout night. (Reykjavik 2222/17)

Convoy KB2

Convoy K.B. 2 (2 M.T. ships, store ship and patrol ship) will leave Clyde 23/5. (O.D.(H) 2007/17 to Jolly, Reykjavik).

"NORWEGIAN TROOPS HAVE OCCUPIED THE VASSDAL MOUNTAIN, AND HAVE FORCED THEIR WAY FURTHER INTO THE MOUNTAINS SOUTH OF BUKKEDALEN."

THE NEWS CONTAINED IN THIS COMMUNIQUE, SAYS THE NORWEGIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY, MEANS THAT GERMAN TROOPS WHO HAD FORMERLY BEEN OCCUPYING ELVEGAARDSMOEN AND THE BOTTOM OF THE VALLEY TO HERJANGEN HAVE AS A RESULT OF THE ALLIED ACTION ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY BEEN FORCED TO WITHDRAW TO THE MOUNTAINS FURTHER SOUTH. THERE ARE FEW POSSIBILITIES IN THAT AREA FOR HOLDING POSITIONS FOR LONG.

LAST NIGHT A GERMAN PLANE CRASHED INTO A HIGH MOUNTAIN AT ANNOEY, IN NORTHERN NORWAY. TH CREW OF THREE WERE KILLED INSTANTLY. --REUTER

M-2

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Narvik.

17.5.1940
Friday.

EFFINGHAM, MATABELE grounded.

EFFINGHAM has touched rock and is holed. (H.O. 20 C.S. 1951/17). Boiler room, engine room and some magazines flooded, fear will become total loss. MATABELE starboard A bracket damaged and spirit room flooded, otherwise sound. (H.O. 20 C.S. 2044/17).

COVENTRY, CAIRO and MATABELE returning to Harstad with all military and EFFINGHAM's ship's company, leaving Capt. Howson in ECHO. Trying to arrange to tow EFFINGHAM into deep water and sink her. (H.O. 20 C.S. 2308/17)

Can VINDICTIVE approach and be of use. If EFFINGHAM is as bad as you fear do not risk efficient ships to save her. Concentrate on getting troops ashore and crew in safety and destroy her. (F.O. Narvik, 0005/18)

RESOLUTION bombed

RESOLUTION in the Narvik area was hit by a bomb 17/5 which pierced 3 decks and caused slight damage. The casualties are one dead and 9 wounded. RESOLUTION is returning to U.K. (DCNS 19/5)

12.15 BRUSSELS RADIO TRANSMITTER HIT. - MAY 15.

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED IN BELGIAN CIRCLES IN LONDON (REUTER LEARNS) THE SILENCE OF BRUSSELS RADIO WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE TRANSMITTER, SITUATED SOMEWHERE IN BELGIUM OUTSIDE BRUSSELS, HAD BEEN BOMBED AND PUT OUT OF ACTION.

THE STUDIO IN BRUSSELS ITSELF IS HOWEVER INTACT AND THE SERVICE WAS RESUMED LATER THIS MORNING FROM AN ALTERNATIVE TRANSMITTER. --REUTER.

S-1

12.21 BATTLE RAGING ON MEUSE.

MAY LAST DAYS - FRENCH OFFICIAL VIEW

SECRET

17.5.40
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

Narvik.

~~Intell~~.
M. A/S. B's.

F.O. Narvik's 0033/16. Capt D.8 after reconnce in Narvik area reports motor A/S boats would have many advantages over trawlers or destroyers for A/S operations in inland waters Narvik area. Suggest this to release destroyers. (C-in-C HF 1632/17) Not possible, only 3 available and no depot ship. Fairmiles will be sent later if practicable, not available before July. (DASW 2145/17)

Air Reconnaissance

Requested, to discover enemy a/c at or using Rombaken and Rombaks Fiord, and signs of movement south shores of Rombaks Fiord, etc. Request bombing of targets in these areas, particularly Sildvik Hundalen. (F.O. Narvik, & R.A.A. 1731/17)

Iron Ore

Ministry of Shipping anxious to send approx. one ship a week to Kirkenes to load iron ore. One Finnish ship now available Petsamo for this purpose. Any objection? (A.C.N.S. 1822/17) Prize German ship DOEO sailed from Tromso for Kirkenes to load ore, escort trawler ULLSWATER. (F.O.I.C.S. 2141/17)

~~ENTERPRISE~~ ~~To anchor off Harstad 1100/18 (F.O. Narvik 1405/17)~~

Norwegian Warships.

List in Northern Norwegian waters. (D.N.I. 1727/17)

10.14 FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

PARIS, FEB 26: THIS MORNING'S OFFICIAL FRENCH WAR COMMUNIQUE STATES:

"INCREASED ACTIVITY OF CONTACT UNITS ON VARIOUS POINTS OF THE FRONT BETWEEN THE MOSELLE AND THE SAAR." --REUTER.

S-2

CORRECTED REPETITION 10.03 MESSAGE.

AUSTRALIA'S RECORD WHEAT CROP. FEB 26.

AUSTRALIA WILL HAVE A RECORD WHEAT HARVEST THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT GIVEN ON THE AUSTRALIAN SHORT-WAVE BROADCAST THIS MORNING.

SO FAR 193,000,000 BUSHELS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED BY THE FARMERS.

SECRET

17.5.40
Friday

HOME COMMANDS
Norway - Narvik

A.A. defence — Spare barrels for Oerlikon guns, twelve additional guns and A/A rates asked for cannot be supplied at present (D.T.S.D. to F.O. Narvik 1256/17)

NS3 — Owing to heavy air attacks on ships in this area and congestion in harbour ~~of fort~~ OLEANDER, CYPRIAN PRINCE and PIONEER of 1st part of NS3 and 7 ships of 2nd part are being kept at sea probably until fighter a/cs are available on 22/5 (FO Narvik 2009/17)

~~RE MARTIN~~ WALKER, FIREDRAKE to escort MARINA, DROMORE CASTLE, PEMBROKE COAST, GUNVOR MAERSK to Harstad, arriving 0500/19. Remainder of convoy remains within 50 miles ~~of~~ to NW of 71°N 8°E until otherwise ordered. STORK, FLEETWOOD to meet on 19/5 (FO Narvik 1453/17)

Trawlers. — Your 1818/16. Trawlers have been ordered to proceed to Skjel Fiord, nearest safe anchorage to Bodo where they are required but it was considered inadvisable to send them direct to Bodo owing to possible developments. (DOD(N) 1453/12 to FO Narvik.)

ENTERPRISE — Proceed as necessary to anchor off Harstad 1600/18 (FO Narvik 1945/17)

Swordfish repatriating — Swordfish may require repatriating landing ground near Porsanger or Varanger Fiords. Confirm that Banak available. Reports on this and military aerodrome near Nyborg required urgently stating firm date when serviceable for Swordfish (Air Min. 1237/17)

ATIONS OF HOME DEFENCE.

"THERE IS NO NEED TO URGE THE NECESSITY OF SWIFT PREPARED-NESS BY THIS NATION", THE 'NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE' SAYS.

"THE GUNS ARE WREAKING NAZI WILL UPON THE LOW COUNTRIES, SLAYING, BURNING AND ANNIHILATING.

"THEY HAVE MADE OF NEUTRALITY AN APATHETIC FOLLY. BEFORE SUCH BESTIALITY TO BE NEUTRAL, WHETHER IN THOUGHT, WORD OR DEED, IS UNTHINKABLE.

"DOUBTS OF AMERICANS AS TO THE THREAT CONFRONTING THEM HAVE BEEN BLOWN TO BITS. THE SINGLE REMAINING QUESTION IS A DOMESTIC ONE - HOW BEST CAN A TRAGICALLY DISUNITED AND UNPREPARED NATION BE UNITED BEHIND AN EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION?"

B-1 --REUTER

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Operations

17.5.40
Friday

Operation Quixote, Cutting of Cables.

Admty. 2055/15. Intend to carry out operation Quixote commencing at daylight Sunday 19/5. Air and destroyer protection (C in C Nore 1644/17) Orders to PUFFIN and JACKAL (C in C Nore, 1714/17)

DANISH POLITICAL CIRCLES TAKE THE VIEW, IT IS LEARNED, THAT THE BUILDING OF THE DEFENCE LINE INDICATES THAT THE GERMANS REGARD THE PRESENT FRONTIER AS PERMANENTLY FIXED.

IT IS THOUGHT THAT THE DEFENCE MEASURE MAY BE A PRECAUTION AGAINST A FEARED ANGLO-FRENCH INVASION FROM THE NORTH.

B-2 --REUTER

11.38 BANK OF FRANCE GOLD PRICE.

PARIS, FEB 26: THE BANK OF FRANCE'S BUYING PRICE FOR GOLD THIS MORNING IS 47,608.00 FRS PER KG.

B-2 --REUTER

SECRET

17.5.40
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Dutch Warships ~~[illegible]~~

MEDUSA and DOUVE AUKES — Dutch Minelayers arrived Dover 0835. T.B. 27 sailed for Southend with Z6 from Ramsgate (V.A. Dover 0852/17)

~~NAUTILUS~~ ~~[illegible]~~ / ~~JAN VAN BRAKEL~~ — Arrived

~~DIEKRIJE CLAESJE~~ — ~~Dutch Trawler Minesweeper sailed from Harwich to Southend with BLOEMENDAAL and MARIA R. OMMERING at 0823 (R.O.T.E. Harwich 1053/17)~~

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Raise Steam (enemy reported)	for full speed with all despatch (C. in C. H.F. 0155/20 to RENOWN, SOUTHAMPTON, MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, BIRMINGHAM). Steam ready 0400 but unable to proceed unless dense fog clears. (BIRMINGHAM 0420/20 to C. in C., H.F.).
	If BIRMINGHAM proceeds intend proceeding in her with CODRINGTON, GRAFTON, GALLANT in company (D.I. 0528/20 to F.O.I.C. Humber).
	18th C.S. and RENOWN keep steam at one hour's notice (C. in C., H.F. 0714/20 to B.C. one, C.S.18).
	Proceed to Rosyth when visibility permits provided channel is clear (C. in C., H.F. 0129/20 to BIRMINGHAM).
Northern area	Movements taking place (C. in C. H.F. 2103/20)
Home Fleet	Movements in Northern area, RESOLUTION returning to Scapa, convoys for Harstad and from Harstad, etc. (C. in C., H.F., 2103/20).
MILAN	French, to return to Clyde as soon as possible. (Cdt., Force Z, 1535/20).
Cruiser for Narvik	Sail one ship of 18th C.S. for Narvik as soon as practicable to take place of AURORA and ENTERPRISE, both of which require repair (Adty. 0050/20 to C. in C., H.F.).
Submarines	Positions 0600/21. (V.A.S., 1704/20). 3rd and 10th Flotillas, control. Cancel my 1201/16 (V.A.S., 2123/20).

War Diary.

20.4.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Namsos - Air Protection

AUCKLAND ordered to afford A/A protection.
(D.O.D.(H) 1958/20).

NUBIAN is on her way to Namsos now.
(F.O.C. 18 C.S. 2012/20).

Last night and today experience Namsos shows that unless some form of air protection or support is provided the situation will become untenable. Very heavy air attacks were made on convoy entering last night and S.O. A/S trawlers today reports situation as desperate through continuous bombing. Immediate action is (group omitted).
(C.S.18, 2053/20).

War Office to Carton de Wiart. Ref. 1215/20.
A/A protection by ship's guns should reach you dawn 21st. Protection by planes of carrier will be given as quickly as possible. German aerodromes being bombed.
(2105/20).

RUTLANDSHIRE. Survivors still ashore at Havik, 64°30' N., 11°32' E.
Investigate and rescue if possible.
(C. in C. H.F. 1614/21 to NUBIAN).

.....REUTERS TICKER : FEBRUARY 28, 1940.....

--- GOOD MORNING ---

(1)

09.15. RUSSIANS CLAIM MORE FORTS OCCUPIED

.....MOSC, FEB 28.....LAST NIGHT'S COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE LENINGRAD MILITARY AREA STATES:

"ON THE KARELIAN ISTHMUS SOVIET TROOPS, BREAKING THROUGH THE ENEMY'S FORTIFIED ZONE, OCCUPIED 13 DEFENSIVE FORTIFICATIONS INCLUDING NINE IRON AND CONCRETE ARTILLERY FORTS.

"ON THE OTHER SECTORS OF THE FRONT NOTHING OF IMPORTANCE.

"IN A NUMBER OF AREAS SOVIET AVIATION SUCCESSFULLY BOMBED ENEMY TROOPS AND MILITARY OBJECTIVES.

"SIX ENEMY PLANES WERE BROUGHT DOWN IN AIR COMBATS".

CH-1 REUTER

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Air.

16 ~~15~~.5.1940
Thursday ~~Monday.~~

British Air Activity.

Attack on Bergen. 9 Skuas leave Hatston 1100/16 to bomb objectives in Bergen. Escort by Blenheims not required (ACOS 1000/16) Attack successful. (Hatston 1542/16)

Sullom Voe Aerodrome could be in use two months after work started (ACOS 1140/16)

Attack on Stavanger. 8 Hudsons from Coastal Command attacked Stavanger aerodrome night of 16-17/5. Reports hit on hangar, which was partially demolished, and shipping. (DCNS)

Aircraft markings. Reference C.A.F.O.4021/39, roundels red centre then white circle with blue circle outside are being painted on the underside of both lower wings of all British fighter aircraft. Fleet Air Arm aircraft are to conform as soon as practicable. Roundels to be as large as possible but clear of aileron hinges and ailerons.

(1725/16.)

~~For~~ (Head of Air Branch.) ~~(867).~~

Balloon Sites. Harwich request to increase balloon barrage sites around Parkeston Quay by at least six referred for remarks. (D. of L.D., & Air Min., 1757/16)

From May 17, a barrage balloon will be flown at Aberporth, Cardigan, during daylight hours only. (Air Min. 1812/16)

U

N7Q18 ADD 17.12 - HEAVY DUTCH CASUALTIES.

M. VAN KLEFFENS, PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HEROISM OF THE DUTCH SOLDIERS, SAID THAT CERTAIN REGIMENTS - NOTABLY THE GRENADIERS - HAD LOST 80 PER CENT OF THEIR EFFECTIVES. --REUTER.

S-3

IN 17.12 MESSAGE - HEAVY DUTCH CASUALTIES - READ ON LAST LINE: ...HAD BEEN LOST IN THE FIGHTING.

HOME COMMANDS

SECRET

16.5.40
Thursday

Air.

Enemy air activity.

OSTEND being bombed, ships with refugees cannot leave port. Fighters required (Air Pln Rec'd 1005/16)

PANAGHIOTIS Greek (see 15/5) Intercept 1300 G M T to Port Captain, Zeebrugge, ship's condition now very critical, heavy list, sinking slowly, request assistance (N. Foreland Radio 1417/16)

FOUDROYANT) On leaving Narvik for U.K., attacked
SOMALI) and bombed by enemy aircraft ~~early on 16/5~~ at 0245/16. No details received (D C N S, 256, I.C., 0453/40) Attacked by 6 Junkers 87 dive bombers from astern, which released bombs at low altitude. (Capt. D(2) 0245/16)

Tromso. DEVONSHIRE and ENTERPRISE reported activity by enemy a/c believed to be troop carriers in the vicinity of Tromso, but no evidence of any attempts to land troops. Aircraft in question may have been Heinkel 111's. (I.C., 0453/40)

YET BEEN OFFICIALLY ORDERED FROM LONDON, REUTER LEARNS.

AT THE SAME TIME THE LOCAL BRITISH CONSULS MAY DEEM IT NECESSARY TO ADVISE THE EVACUATION OF BRITISH SUBJECTS IN THEIR PARTICULAR CITY OR CANTON. THIS IS EVIDENTLY BEING DONE IN THE CASE OF THOSE LIVING IN OR NEAR ZURICH. --REUTER

B-2

14.45 MESSAGE FROM ROOSEVELT TO MUSSOLINI : BERLIN REPORT.

BERLIN, MAY 16: A ROME MESSAGE PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICIAL GERMAN NEWS AGENCY SAYS THAT, ACCORDING TO AN AUTHORITATIVE ITALIAN SOURCE, A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WAS CONVEYED TO SIGNOR MUSSOLINI TODAY THROUGH COUNT CIANO, THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. --REUTER

B-2

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Air.

16.5.1940
Thursday.

Enemy Air Activity.

German Seaplane Destroyed. (German seaplane believed to be a Dornier was brought down by M.T.B. 24 and observed to sink off Ymuiden at 2215 B.S.T. on Tues. May 14. (S.O., 3rd M.T.B. Flot., 0902/16)

KINGSBURY 2135 G.M.T., KINGSBURY being machine-gunned off Royal Sovereign. (via Portsland Radio, 2137/16)

GLADIOLUS (Outward convoy) OA 149. / am being attacked by enemy A/C in position 300 R.S.8. (GLADIOLUS, 2246/16)

Portsmouth An air raid is imminent in the Portsmouth area. (Portsmouth W/T, 2246/16)

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY MINISTRY OF AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION..COL.

J.J. LLEWELLIN

CIVIL LORD ADMIRALTY..CAPT. AUSTIN HUDSON

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY BOARD OF TRADE..MAJOR GWILLIAM

LLOYD GEORGE

SECRETARY FOR PETROLEUM..MR. GEOFFREY LLOYD

CH-1 REUTER

20.33. GERMAN HIGH COMMAND ANNOUNCEMENT

.....B E R L I N, MAY 15.....THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND ANNOUNCES THE CAPITULATION OF THE DUTCH ARMY WAS SIGNED AT 11.00 TODAY BY THE RESPECTIVE COMMANDERS IN CHIEF. --REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Air.

16.5.1940
Thursday.

British Air Activity.

Jersey Airport — Jersey air port now being used by F.A.A. Admiralty therefore responsible for local protection against parachutists and air-borne land troops. Suggestion. (Air Ministry, 2240/16)

Searches. — Air searches tomorrow, Friday. (C.in.C. Rosyth 2230/16)

Squadrons moved. — Air Ministry signal X.68, 14/5, re placing certain F.A.A. T.S.R. squadrons under Coastal Command. Arrangements completed for reception of 821, 823 and 825 Squadrons at North Coates, Detling and Honey Island respectively. (Air Min, 1940/16)

Operation BOTTLE — Admty. letter M/OD 1145/40 of 25/4/40. Intended to carry out this operation with 6 Swordfish of 823 Sqdn. Short title, Operation BOTTLE. A/c will leave Hatston at 2230 tomorrow Friday or on first following day on which weather conditions appear suitable. (A.C.O.S., 1846/16)

F.A.A. Fighters. — Msg 1733/12, 806 Sqdn. and Roc Flights of 800 and 80 to cease operations, was the decision of the War Cabinet. Until further instructions are issued F.A.A. fighters at Hatston should only be used in emergency. (D.N.A.D., 1346/16)

Reconnaissance. — To be undertaken daily at dusk from 17/5 of area between parallels 59 and 61 N., meridians 01 to 03 W., to report and attack enemy surface vessels attempting to raid Shetlands. (H.Q., C.C., 1900/16)

"SOUTH-WEST OF NAMUR OUR DIVISIONS EXTENDED THEIR SUCCESSES ON THE WEST BANK OF THE RIVER MEUSE AND ONCE AGAIN DEFEATED FRENCH ARMOURED FORCES.

"TO THE SOUTH OF SEDAN FRENCH COUNTER-ATTACKS, WHICH WERE CARRIED OUT BY HEAVY TANKS, WERE REPULSED. SEVERAL WERE DESTROYED.

"WE WERE ABLE TO EXTEND OUR POSITIONS TO THE WEST OF SAARLAUTERN AND NEAR LAUTERBURG.

CH-1 SEE --2-- REUTER

13.05.

...2...GERMAN COMMUNIQUE (12.58)...

"STRONG FORCES OF GERMAN AIRCRAFT ATTACKED ENEMY TROOPS AND THEIR COMMUNICATIONS ON MAY 15. MARCHING COLUMNS AND TROOP CONCENTRATIONS WERE SCATTERED AND ENEMY ARMOURED CARS DESTROYED BY DIRECT HITS.

"FORTY-SIX ENEMY PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN IN AIR BATTLES.

SECRET

16.5.1940
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDSç

Dutch Warships & Principal M/Ss.

FLORES. Request from Dutch Naval Attache for ammunition from Dutch warships now atnPortsmouth for Dutch gunboat FLORES, c/o Vice-Admiral, Dover, for Admiral, Nord, Dunkirk. (D.N.L.O., 1334/16, to C.in C., ortsmouth)

18.06. GERMAN WIRELESS WARNS AGAINST "EXAGGERATED HOPES"

MAY 15.

A WARNING AGAINST "EXAGGERATED HOPES" FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSES ANNOUNCED IN TODAY'S GERMAN HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE WAS GIVEN BY THE OFFICIAL GERMAN WIRELESS THIS AFTERNOON.

"THESE SUCCESSES ARE NOT YET DECISIVE", WAS THE OFFICIAL COMMENT READ BY THE ANNOUNCER.

HE ADDED, HOWEVER, "WITH HOLLAND'S CAPITULATION, THE GERMAN ARMY HAS COME ALMOST TO THE VERY GATES OF BRITAIN WHICH CAN NOW BE REACHED BY OUR WARPLANES IN BARELY AN HOUR".

COMMENTING ON THE PLAN FOR THE INVASION OF BELGIUM, THE ANNOUNCER SAID:

"THE SCHLIEFFEN ORDER TO MAKE THE RIGHT WING STRONG

HOME COMMANDS. 16.5.40

SECRET Thursday

Dutch warships & principal M.V's.

Warships sailed for Portsmouth 0810/16:- M/L's NAUTILUS, JAN ~~VAN~~ VAN BRAKEL, TB's Z5, Z8, Q13, Yacht DE MOK (NOIC Ramsgate 0905/16)

Arrived M/L WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN, S/M's O.09, O.10, O.23, O.24, Tug BVS (C in C Portsmouth 0928/16)

AMSTERDAM and NAVAL TRAWLERS — Armed Tug AMSTERDAM and Naval Trawlers V.45, V.42, sailed to Spithead at 0515/16 (N.O. i/c Ramsgate 0750/16)

GRUNO and BRINIO — Request consider their allocation to Thames Local Defence Flotilla for defence of A/B Boom (C-in-C, Nore 1146/16)

4 Belgian Mail Steamers 2 with Refugees left Ostend at 1945 for Folkestone. Endeavour to intercept and cover them. They are to anchor in safe position off North Goodwin Light Vessel till daylight. ~~Guard ship informed~~.

(NOIC Dover 2210/16 ADMIRALTY)

HOME COMMANDS

16.5.40
Thursday

SECRET

Submarines

SEAWOLF Tobacco patrol 17/5. Orders (Capt(S)3 1077/16)

3rd. and 10th. S/M FLOTILLAS — V.A.(S) will assume operational control from 1600 15th. day (V.A.S. 1201/16)

.....N E W Y O R K, MAY 15.....WITH A TURNOVER OF 1,540,000 SHARES IN THE FIRST HOUR, THE MARKET STAGED A WHIRLWIND TURNABOUT, AS WITH A RUSH TO BUY PIVOTALS - NOTABLY STEEL, MOTOR AND AIRCRAFT SHARES - A LONG LIST ADVANCED ONE TO THREE POINTS. DU PONT ROSE SEVEN.

THE MARKET IS AT PRESENT MARKING-TIME, BUT SELLING OF IMPAIRED MARGIN ACCOUNTS HAS BEEN WELL ABSORBED. --REUTER

CH-1

U10.04 FREIGHT MARKET REPORT. MAY 15.

WITH OWNERS RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE LOWER RATES ESTABLISHED OF LATE, THE TONE ON THE BALTIC EXCHANGE FREIGHT MARKET BECAME RATHER STEADIER TODAY, THOUGH NO RECOVERY WAS SEEN IN QUOTATIONS.

IT BECAME KNOWN THAT TWO FIXTURES OF HEAVY GRAIN FROM THE PLATE HAD BEEN MADE AFTER HOURS YESTERDAY, ONE TO EIRE

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Operations.

16.5.1940
Thursday.

Submarines.

CASA BIANCA
(French)

Heavily depth charged during last 2 days in area by motor torpedo boats and trawlers with asdics. Have been rejected on surface. Continued enemy patrol, unable to charge. Proceeding MBND 44 N to charge and await instructions.
(CASA BIANCA 2325/16)

Poitiers 0600/17 (DC 2115/16, 2117/16, VAS 1911/16)

11.36. STOCK MARKETS QUIET FEB 28.

MARKETS ARE ON THE QUIET SIDE THIS MORNING AND SOME OF THE RECENTLY ACTIVE STOCKS ARE INCLINED TO EASE OFF A TRIFLE.

THERE IS VERY LITTLE ANIMATION IN HOME RAILS, DEALERS SHOWING A DISPOSITION TO AWAIT THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY'S DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENT.

MUCH THE SAME CONDITIONS PREVAIL IN THE KAFFIR MARKET, OWING TO THE IMMINENCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUDGET.

GILT-EDGED OPENED ON THE LOWER SIDE BUT ARE NOW INCLINED TO HARDEN A LITTLE.

AMONG INDUSTRIALS, TOBACCO SHARES AND THE BUILDING GROUP ARE SEEN TO ADVANTAGE, BUT ELSEWHERE A SLIGHTLY LOWER TREND IS DISCERNIBLE.

OILS ARE LESS ACTIVE BUT PRICES ARE STEADY.

IN THE FOREIGN MARKET, JAPANESE BONDS ARE IN FAVOUR AND THERE IS RENEWED BUYING OF CHILEANS. REUTER

CH-1

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
~~Marines at Hook.~~
Narvik.

SECRET

16 ~~13~~.5.1940
Thursday ~~Monday~~

French
advance.

~~245~~ I ~~dislike and~~ am not asking for reinforcements but point out my force has much water to control under increasing enemy consolidated pressure. Reduction from 10 to 6 destroyers renders if difficult to provide submarine escorts for extra N E S duties e.g. ~~H.M.S.~~ DEVONSHIRE. ~~I do not ask for more destroyers but~~ Would welcome 2 additional A/S escort ships. ~~H.M.S.~~ FLEETWOOD has been much shaken up by near misses and should be relieved. After meeting pressing commitments in next few days propose sailing ~~H.M.S.~~ AURORA for U.K. observing her B turret is out of action but I can only spare ~~H.M.S.~~ AURORA if force is otherwise kept intact. ~~H.M.S.~~ ENTERPRISE needs a change she has withstood much bombing and has little to resist it with. She needs superficial repairs. If no older ship with good A/A armament is available suggest ~~H.M.S.~~ EMERALD might relieve her. In 6 days time we should have our own aircraft available when psition will no doubt improve. I am seeking to avoid repetition of the CHROBRY incident by sending ship by long route to Bodo avoiding Tjeldsunde from which I suspect departures are communicated to enemy. Am taking steps to stop this. 4 planes appeared to be awaiting CHROBRY convoy. I dismiss any idea of giving enemy easy success by taking incident too seriously. Another battalion is being prepared for Bodo while Irish Guards refit and plan decided upon.

My 1817/15. Movement from Ankenes to Harstad begins between 0800 and 1000 this morning.

French hope to advance to north shore of Romsaks in 24 hours and ask co-operation of destroyer patrol in watching north bank and preventing use of railway route by enemy.

(FO Narvik 0043/16 to FOC 20 CS)

CH-1

20.20. NEW GOV RMENT APPOINTMENTS MAY 15.

THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS WERE ANNOUNCED FROM 10 DOWNING STREET TONIGHT:

ATTORNEY GENERAL..SIR DONALD SOMERVELL

SOLICITOR GENERAL..SIR WILLIAM JOWITT

PAYMASTER GENERAL..VISCOUNT CRANBOURNE

UNDER-SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS..MR. R.A. BUTLER

UNDER-SECRETARY FOR DOMINIONS..MR. G.H. SHAKESPEARE

UNDER-SECRETARY FOR COLONIES..MR. GEORGE HENRY HALL

SECRETARY FOR MINES..MR. DAVID R. GRENFELL.

CH-1 REUTER

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Narvik Area.

16.5.1940
Thursday.

A/A Guns. F.O. Narvik's 1634/8. Consider second Oerlikon gun essential in auxiliary craft under present conditions. Request 19 guns and ammunition be sent together with spare barrels for all guns and A/A ratings if available. (R.A.,Narvik, 1801/16)

TRUANT. Left Rosyth o930 proceeding on surface to Harstad. (R.A.S., 1014/16)
Intend TRUANT on arrival shall operate with Norwegian submarines B.1 and B.3 from Vardo from about 21/5. Norwegian C.in C. proposes B.6 should return to operate with this force. Request instructions if Admiralty concur. (F.O.C.1 C.S., 2242/16)

Positions. Your 1957/15, requesting whereabouts. MATABELE at Harstad, ROYAL ULSTERMAN unknown. (F.O.,Narvik to C.in C.H.F., 0047/16)

Ice Conditions. My 1855/13. Owing to delay in thaw, Canal is not expected to be open before 20/5. Expected that news of vessels passing into the Cahal from the Baltic will be delayed ~~noon today~~ 1200/16. ent.

H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE Enemy Air Report of

~~16th May~~

Observer in H.M.S. ENTERPRISE considers aircraft were troop carriers. After circling Tromso they finally proceed south. Local Authorities state they were traced from Andenes to Tromso and thence back to Lodsingen and have no information of landing of troops. Air Route and local Authorities identify as Heinkel 111's (CS1 2103/16)

16.34 CLOSING OF HUNGARO-SLOVAK FRONTIER DENIED.

BUDAPEST, MAY 15: REPORTS OF THE CLOSING OF THE HUNGARO-SLOVAK FRONTIER WERE DENIED HERE TODAY BY THE SLOVAK LEGATION, SAYS THE HUNGARIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY. --REUTER.

S-1

16.42 FALL OF NARVIK EXPECTED SOON.

SOMEWHERE IN NORWAY, MAY 15: AN ACCOUNT OF THE SITUATION IN

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Operations.

16.5.1940
Thursday.

Narvik Area

Netlaying. On completion of netlaying in Iceland, GUARDIAN to proceed to Harstad to lay nets as required by R.A., Narvik. (O.B.O., 1547/16).

F.O. at Harstad. Key flag and staff transferred to shore at Harstad. (F.O. Narvik 1830/16)

~~TRUANT Left Rough 0930 proceeding on surface to Harstad. (R.A.(S) 1014/16)~~

Trawler Base. Your 1422/13. Have trawlers been sent to Harstad, as Skjel Fiord is closed as a base headquarters. Nearest ship is in Ofot Fiord. Craft are being taken up in Harstad for five drifter crews. (F.O.,Narvik, 1818/16)

Limiting Sea Traffic. Admty. 0058/14. The prohibition in Northern Norway of all water transport except under a system of licences by military authorities would probably be effective. Norwegians, however, very dependent on water transport for all supplies. Prohibition would have to be enforced by local steamer taken up and preferably manned by British Navy with few Norwegian ratings on board. But vessels could not deal with submarines and would lack speed. If any Hunt class vessels available that could work with aircraft they might be of use to support patrol. Question of limiting traffic is now being considered. (F.O.,Narvik, 0019/16)

THE NORTH NARVIK AREA WAS GIVEN TO THE NORWEGIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY BY THE COMMANDER OF THE FRENCH TROOPS IN THE BJERVIK DISTRICT.

HE SAID THAT SINCE THE FRENCH TROOPS ARRVED THE GERMANS HAD STEADILY RETREATED AT A RATE OF APPROXIMATELY ONE KILOMETRE A DAY.

"THEY ARE NOW SITUATED A GOOD SIX MILES FROM GRATANGSBOTTEN," HE ADDED.

"THE GERMANS HERE POSSESS NO HEAVY ARTILLERY BUT PLENTY OF MACHINE GUNS. THEY ARE COMPLETELY SEPARATED FROM THE OTHER GERMAN FORCES IN NORTHERN NORWAY AND RECEIVE ALL THEIR SUPPLIES OF AMMUNITION AND FOOD BY PLANE.

"COOPERATION BETWEEN FRENCH AND NORWEGIAN OFFICERS IS THE BEST POSSIBLE DESPITE LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES," THE COMMANDER STATED.

QUESTIONED AS TO WHEN THE ALLIES WOULD BE LIKELY TO TAKE NARVIK, THE COLONEL SAID "THE TIME WOULD ARRIVE BEFORE VERY LONG," BUT HE DID NOT WISH TO SAY MORE IN CASE HE WAS GIVING AWAY VITAL INFORMATION.

HE EXPRESSED "COMPLETE CERTAINTY" THAT THE SITUATION OF

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

16.5.1940
Thursday.

Dutch Warships & Principal MVs.

HEEMSKERCK, ISAAC SWEERS, JAN VAN GELDER, and submarines O.13, O.21 and O.22 can now be inspected by Admiralty Technical Officers. (C-C Portsmouth, 1653/16)

CH-1

19.50. GERMANS OCCUPY AMSTERDAM MAY 15.

THE CITY OF AMSTERDAM HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY THE GERMANS.

THE ADVANCE GUARDS OF THE OCCUPATION TROOPS ARRIVED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY AT 13.00 (DUTCH TIME), ACCORDING TO RADIO HOLLAND.

THEY WERE MOTORISED COLUMNS UNDER THE COMMAND OF A HIGH OFFICER.

CH-1 --REUTER

SECRET

16.5.1940
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

Belgian Coast.

WHITSHED — To proceed to Ostend with despatch and bring as many British refugees to Dover as possible and report situation Ostend. (V.A. Dover, 0948/16)
And protection from 1100 today requested (V.A. Dover, 1032/16)

Following received from WHITSHED, presumably from British Minister in Brussels. For Foreign Office. French Ambassador and I arrived at Ostend mid-day 16/5 with his staff. Am staying at Imperial Hotel to which telegrams should be addressed, but have no cypher. Regret British refugees could not be evacuated this morning. Ship subjected to repeatedbombardments by enemy airccaft. They also did some damage in the Embassy. French Ambassador and I may be visiting Brussels to-morrow. (V.A.Dover, 1725/16)

WHITSHED requests immediate fighter protection Ostend. (V.A.,Dover, 1511/16).

Refugee Ships. — Further to V.A.Dover's 1032/16. Additional refugee ships will be leaving Ostend to-day. Request if possible air protection until further notice. (D.C., to Air Min., 1247/16)

3 fighter airccaft to proceed to Ostend to afford air protection to MONA'S QUEEN, four trawlers and possibly WHITSHED whilst they embark refugees (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 1705/16)

TALKING OPENLY OF POSSIBLE WAR[illegible]

ISOLATION INDEED APPEARS TO BE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE.

THE "TIMES-HERALD" THIS MORNING FORESEES THAT AMERICAN SYMPATHY AND INDIGNATION WILL RESULT IN THE ENTRY OF THE UNITED STATES INTO THE WAR.

THE PAPER UTTERS A WARNING THAT IF THE UNITED STATES DOES JOIN IN, THE PEOPLE MUST FACE A TERRIFIC LOAD OF TAXATION AND THAT INTERVENTION WILL ONLY BE EFFECTIVE IF THE FIGHTING MEN USE THE LATEST WEAPONS.

"IT WON'T HELP THE ALLIES TO SEND ONLY SYMPATHY," SAYS THE PAPER, WHICH URGES THE NECESSITY FOR BUILDING UP A LARGE ARMY AND TRAINING 50,000 PILOTS.

THE "WASHINGTON POST" SAYS MR WINSTON CHURCHILL'S WARNING TO THE NEUTRALS LAST JANUARY NOW STANDS AS A PRESCIENT WARNING. "AS THE STRUGGLE DEEPENS THERE ARE NO NEUTRALS, FOR NEUTRALITY IS A DEAD CONCEPT," THE PAPER DECLARES.

AS A RESULT OF THIS RAPID CHANGE OF OPINION, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S DEFENCE PROPOSALS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO MEET ANY HURDLES IN CONGRESS. --REUTER.

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

16.5.1940
Thursday.

Dutch Coast Operation XD

56 Chatham personnel and several officers of XD parties have returned here. Work admirably done. ~~Necessary leave for all concerned. Remaining Chatham personnel who can be stood for 5 days~~ (C in C Nore 1301/16)

Their Lordships congratulate the officers and men of parties A and B in Operation XD on the skill and determination displayed and on the successful results which attended their efforts under such difficult and confusing conditions. (DOD(H) 2038/16)

~~Regret we will grant 5 days leave to personnel employed in Operation XD when they return to their depot. (DOD(H) to C in C's, Nore, Portsmouth, Western Approaches)~~

Master Dutch vessel BODENGRAVEN reports Ymuiden entrances closed by blockships NAALDWIJK, JAN PETERSEN, COHEN and one trawler. (C.C.S.O., Falmouth, 1555/16)

09.45 ITALIAN ENVOY IN SPAIN GOING HOME.

BERLIN, MAY 13: SIGNOR GAMBARA THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN MADRID, HAS LEFT FOR ROME FOR A CONFERENCE WITH HIS GOVERNMENT, SAYS A MADRID DISPATCH TO THE GERMAN OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY.

S-2 --REUTER.

09.46 ORIENT EXPRESS DERAILED.

SOFIA, MAY 13: THE ORIENT EXPRESS FROM TURKEY WAS DERAILED YESTERDAY AT KOSTENEZ IN SOUTHERN BULGARIA.

THE ENGINE AND FIRST COACH OVERTURNED AND WERE DAMAGED.

IT IS NOT YET KNOWN IF THERE ARE ANY CASUALTIES.

S-2 --REUTER.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

16.5.1940
Thursday.

SECRET

Operation DF - EF.

Test to LYSTER 0800 hours 17/5. (DOD(H) 0918/16, to War Office)

Request you will detail destroyer as S.O.'s ship of Forces DF and EF.
Report name of destroyer and place of embarkation. (DOD(H) to
C in C Nore, 0919/16) Times, etc. (DOD(H) 0931/16)
F.O. D.E. and staff arrive Sheerness 1100/16. (Cdr. Eamons-Williams,
0932/16)

Request available ships of 6th M/S Flotilla be sailed to R.V. with
Forces D and E at North Goodwin at 1800/16. (DOD(H) to
C in C Nore, 0933/16)

Forces to Sail.

Sail Forces D and E for Operation DF and EF. Time of arrival
of Force E to be 0715/17 (DOD(H) 0934/16 to C in C Nore)
Air Ministry informed (DOD(H) 0936/16)
Requesting A/S escort (DOD(H) 0937/16 to C in C Nore)
Admty 0919. VEGA detailed, place of embarkation Sheerness
(C in C Nore 0945/16)

~~Destroyer to be detached as S.O.'s ships of Forces~~
~~D and E (DOD(H) 0919/16 to C in C Nore)~~

Sailing Cancelled

Cancel my 0918/16. Force not sailing for the present (D.E. to
War Office 1135/16, 1134/16.

~~Operation DF and EF Ships not to be sailed until further~~
~~orders (DOD(H) 1124/16)~~

09.39 AIR TRAINING : NEW ZEALAND'S RAPID PROGRESS

WELLINGTON, MAR 18: THE RAPID EXPANSION OF NEW ZEALAND'S AIR TRAINING FACILITIES WAS OUTLINED BY MR F. JONES, MINISTER OF DEFENCE, IN AN INTERVIEW HERE TODAY.

IT WILL SOON BE POSSIBLE, HE SAID, TO PROVIDE FULL TRAINING IN NEW ZEALAND FOR 900 MEN ANNUALLY, LEAVING ABOUT 2,200 MEN A YEAR TO COMPLETE THEIR TRAINING IN CANADA.

WHEN THE SYSTEM WAS IN FULL OPERATION JUST OVER 3,000 TRAINEES COULD BE DEALT WITH IN NEW ZEALAND AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

B-2 --REUTER

WAR DIARY

SECRET

16.5.40
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

PRECAUTIONS.

Southend — Approval required to mount one 2 pdr pom-pom Mark II Converted in Southend Pier for protection of convoy anchorage. (C in C. Nore, 1311/16)

Dover — Urging evacuation of children etc. at early date (V.A. Dover 1344/16)

16.30 REYNAUD...2

"SHE HAS THROWN HERSELF ON THREE FREE PEOPLES AND TODAY SHE AIMS AT THE HEART OF FRANCE.

"THE BELGIUM OF 1914 APPEARS AGAIN. HER LIFE AND DESTINY ARE CLOSELY INTERMINGLED WITH OUR OWN.

B-2 SEE 3....

SECRET

16.5.1940
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Precautions.

Balloons, Dover. Admty. 2032/14. Air Ministry averse to flying balloons at Dover unless absolutely necessary because of interference with fighter activities, our own bombers returning from action in France, and R.D.F at Dover, but in certain circumstances these disabilities might have to be accepted. Reconnaissance to be made of Dover to decide on deployment. (Air Min., 1310/16)

GALATEA, ARETHUSA. To be retained in the Portsmouth area for the present. (D C N S)

18.40.

ADD...BIG INCREASE IN U.S. (11.33)...

THE WHITE HOUSE INDICATED TODAY THAT PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WOULD BE UNABLE TO COMPLETE HIS MESSAGE TO CONGRESS CALLING FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR DEFENCE BEFORE TOMORROW. --REUTER

CH-1

18.45. TWO HUNGARIAN ARMY CORPS MOBILISED

.....B U D A P E S T, MAY 15.....THE MOBILISATION OF TWO HUNGARIAN ARMY CORPS IS ANNOUNCED TODAY.

"IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE, WHEN ALL THE NEIGHBOURING STATES ARE MOBILISED", SAYS AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, "THE MOBILISATION OF ONLY TWO HUNGARIAN ARMY CORPS CANNOT BE REGARDED

HOME COMMAND
Precautions

16.5.40
Thursday.

Balloon barrage

Parkeston Quay. asking for increase [FOIC Harwich 1110/16)

Naval Guns Ashore

Proposed to allocate some guns of damaged ships likely to be in Chatham Yard for over one month temporarily to best local advantage either on shore or in ships of Thames Local Defence Flotilla. Admiralty approval requested. (C in C Nore, 1307/16)

Dispersal of Destroyers.

51 Owing to Probability of Air Attack have dispersed destroyers between Humber, Harwich and Sheerness. 2nd C.S. have Poor H.A. armament and at Sheerness are exposed to M.T.B. Attack. I should therefore like to keep them at Portsmouth or Spithead for the present, Intend sailing them P.M. today.

(C in C, Nore, 1030/16)

Southend. Approval requested to mount one 2-pdr. pom-pom Mark II. converted on Southend Pier for protection of convoy anchorage. (C.in C.,Nore, 1311/16)

Dover ~~Stanstead~~ Urging evacuation of children &c. at early date (V4D Dover 1344/16)

09.23 AMERICANS CROSS INTO SWEDEN.

STOCKHOLM, MAY 16: THIRTY-ONE AMERICANS, MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN FIELD HOSPITAL UNIT, WITH 18 TRUCKS OF EQUIPMENT, HAVE CROSSED THE SWEDISH FRONTIER FROM GRONG, IN THE NORWEGIAN PROVINCE OF NORTH TRONDELAG. --REUTER

B-1

09.24 "FIFTH COLUMN" PRECAUTIONS IN NEW ZEALAND

WELLINGTON, MAY 16: ENEMY ALIENS CONSIDERED ACTIVE OR POTENTIAL SOURCES OF DANGER HAVE BEEN INTERNED, DECLARED MR. P. FRASER, THE NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER, IN AN INTERVIEW TODAY.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WAS FULLY INFORMED WITH REGARD TO ALL ALIENS AND THE SITUATION WAS BEING STRICTLY WATCHED

SECRET

SITUATION REPORT. 16.5.1940
Thursday.

Casualties.

WESTMINSTER, destroyer, which was in collision with a wreck in Dunkirk west approach channel at 2200/15, was towed into Dunkirk at 0430/16 and dry-docked. No casualties.

The French submarine DORIS is overdue and must be considered lost.

16.23 NEW YORK 11.10 RUBBER. MAY 16.

MAY 22.50 JLY 21.60 SPT 19.97 OCT UNQ DEC 19.15

S-1 --REUTER.

16.28 "GERMANY HAS DECIDED TO STAKE ALL" - REYNAUD

PARIS, MAY 16: "GERMANY HAS DECIDED TO STAKE HER ALL",

SECRET

SITUATION REPORT 16.5.1940

Mediterranean

Ships bound for the United Kingdom from west coast of India and Persian Gulf are to be routed via the Cape. No British or Norwegian merchant vessels are to be sailed eastbound from Gibraltar or westbound from Port Said, Alexandria, Haifa or Cyprus for the present.

Seven destroyers and two sloops left Plymouth for the Mediterranean. A third group, consisting of one anti-aircraft cruiser, one sloop and nine destroyers, is to follow p.m. 17/5.

South Atlantic.

Enemy mines have been laid off Cape Agulhas (South Africa).

Convoy U.S.3, consisting of seven ships, escorted by AUSTRALIA and CANBERRA, has been diverted to the Cape, and should arrive there about 25/5. SHROPSHIRE left Simonstown 16/5 to meet U.S.3 as additional escort. LEANDER, which was with this convoy, has been detached and is proceeding to Colombo, and SYDNEY has been ordered to return to COLOMBO.

Likely that an armed merchant raider may be abroad in the South Atlantic or Indian Ocean. The British ship SCIENTIST, which left Durban 27/4, is overdue at Freetown, where she should have arrived on 10/5.

THE MORNING WAS QUITE IRREGULAR.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT STOCKS ARE IN STRONGER HANDS, BUT THE MARKET CONTINUES TO BE DOMINATED BY SPOT WAR NEWS AND THE IMMEDIATE TREND IS UNCERTAIN. --REUTER

B-2

15.37 STOCK MARKETS DETERIORATE. MAY 16

MARKETS MOVED IN A RATHER SEE-SAW FASHION, FINISHING WITH SLIGHT DETERIORATION IN ALL SECTIONS. THE CHEERFUL SENTIMENT WHICH WAS EVIDENT AT THE START WAS DAMPENED DOWN BY THE LACK OF INFORMATIVE NEWS.

GILT EDGED MOVEMENTS WERE NARROW AND AT THE CLOSE THE LONG DATED ISSUES WERE A 1/4 TO 1/2 LOWER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND HOME RAILWAY MARKETS WERE IN THE DOLDRUMS, AND IN THE FINAL DEALINGS THE HEAVINESS OF THE FOREIGN MARKET WAS ACCENTUATED BY THE MARKING DOWN OF NEAR EASTERNS.

SECRET

16.5.1940
Th ursdgy.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Little enemy air activity over the North Sea.
The meteorological flight took place early in the morning in the direction of the Shetlands. A number of aircaft were reportedin the Northern North Sea during the afternoon apparently heading in the direction of Stavanger.
Intense activity was again reported over Belgium and France. Ostend was bombed in the morning and Lille in the afternoon by a large force of aircraft.
Troop transport activity was again reported between Oldenburg, Oslo, Stavanger and Trondheim.

The destroyers FOUDROYANT (French) and SOMALI (British) were bombed on their way to the United Kingdom by six aircraft at 0245/16.

O.A.149, outward-bound convoy, was attacked by enemy a/c at 2245/16 off the Royal Sovereign light vessel.

British Air Activity.

The usual patrols were flown, also additional searches to intercept any M.T.B.'s approaching the British Isles.

Bergen was raided by 9 Skuas and theoil tanks set on fire. All our aircraft returned.

DECLARED M. REYNAUD, THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER, WHEN, WITH HIS NATIONAL UNION GOVERNMENT, HE FACED THE CHAMBER THIS AFTERNOON.

B-2 SEE 2....

16.29 ITALIANS ADVISED TO LEAVE EGYPT.

CAIRO, MAY 16: ITALIANS ARE BEING QUIETLY ADVISED BY THEIR LOCAL CONSULATES TO LEAVE EGYPT.

AMERICANS ARE BEING UNOFFICIALLY ADVISED TO BE READY FOR A POSSIBLE EVACUATION.

THE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE BEGUN THE EVACUATION OF AREAS AT HELIPOLIS, WHICH IS A SUBURB OF CAIRO, AND ALEXANDRIA AND THE NEIGHBOURHOODS OF AERODROMES AND OTHER MILITARY TARGETS.

B-2 --REUTER

SECRET

SITUATION REPORT. 16.5.1940

Narvik Area.

Flag Officer, Narvik, has transferred his flag and staff to the shore at Harstad. H.M.submarine TRUANT sailed from Rosyth at 0930/16 for the Tromso area. PROTECTOR, netlayer, left the Narvik area for the United Kingdom at 1400/16.

CH-1

18.31. NEW EXPORT LICENCE ORDER MAY 15.

THE BOARD OF TRADE HAVE MADE AN ORDER UNDER WHICH THE EXPORT OF COPPER ACEOTARSENITE (PARIS GREEN) TO ANY DESTINATION ON AND AFTER MAY 17 WILL BE PERMITTED ONLY UNDER LICENCE ISSUED BY THE EXPORT LICENSING DEPARTMENT. --REUTER

CH-1

SITUATION REPORT. 16.5.40
Thursday

SECRET

Low Countries.

Dutch Navy — The following ships have now arrived in British waters: 2 cruisers, 1 destroyer, 3 TB's, ~~2 ML's~~, 3 M/L's, 1 M/S, 1 M/L, 9 S/M's, 1 armoured gunboat.

11.55 HITLER LEADS "DEFENCE OPERATIONS"

BERLIN, MAY 10.: HITLER HAS GONE TO THE WESTERN FRONT TO LEAD "THE COMPLETE OPERATIONS OF THE DEFENCE FORCES THERE" SAYS TODAY'S GERMAN HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE. --REUTER

M-2

12.02 SWISS MOBILISE

SITUATION REPORT. 16.5.40
Thursday.

SECRET

Low Countries.

Mines were laid off the Dutch coast last night by S-ships under the direction of Captain D 20.

1,500 British refugees arrived at Dover at 2030/16 from Ostend, after being delayed there by severe enemy air attacks.
Three Belgian mail steamers with refugees, mostly British, from Ostend, anchored off the North Goodwin light vessel, awaiting passage to Folkestone.

The master of the Dutch ship BODENGRAVEN reported that the Ymuiden entrance is closed by four blockships.

WOLSEY, VIMIERA and WHITLEY are providing A/A protection off Dunkirk to the Allied left wing.

09.37 BIG STRIKE CALLED OFF.

AHMEDABAD, FEB 26: A GENERAL STRIKE FIXED FOR TODAY BY THE JOINT BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TEXTILE LABOUR ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN CALLED OFF, FOLLOWING AN AGREEMENT REACHED AT FIVE O'CLOCK THIS MORNING.

- - - - - - - - - - - - -

THE STRIKE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BIGGEST IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY SINCE 1923, WOULD HAVE INVOLVED 70 MILLS AND OVER 100,000 WORKERS. --REUTER.

S-1

09.38 SWEDEN ON CHAMBERLAIN AND HITLER SPEECHES.

STOCKHOLM, FEB 26: THE STANDPOINTS REVEALED IN THE SPEECHES OF MR CHAMBERLAIN AND HERR HITLER OFFER NO PROSPECT OF COMPROMISE, SAYS THE "STOCKHOLMS-TIDNINGEN" TODAY.

EXPLAINING, WITH PAINSTAKING NEUTRALITY, THAT IT COMMENTS

SECRET

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING. 15.5.1940
Wednesday.

S/M's Reported.

0645 Lightvessel S. Tr. LEYS 56°26'N 2°30'W (Off Tay)

0700 60°22'N, 02°00' W. steering 300°. (C.3). (F.O.C.O.S. 0857/15)

1110 Suspicious tail bubbles JSHI 3716 (a/c 224 Sqdn. 1110/15)

Estimated dispositions - 1 in W. Approaches.
1 W. of Shetlands.
1 off Firth of Tay. (DDIC. 1310/15)

S/M Firth of Tay now reported as friendly. (DDIC 1706/15)

09.45 MEXICAN EXPRESS SMASH - 20 DEAD.

MEXICO CITY, FEB 26: 20 PERSONS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER INJURED AS THE RESULT OF A HEAD ON COLLISION BETWEEN A CRACK PASSENGER EXPRESS TO THE UNITED STATES BORDER AND A FREIGHT TRAIN, SIX MILES SOUTH OF QUERETARO CITY, 120 MILES NORTH W ~~ST~~ OF MEXICO CITY.

TWO SECOND CLASS PASSENGER COACHES WERE BURNED OUT.

SI --REUTER.

09.48 HITLER AND MR CHAMBERLAIN.

NEW YORK, FEB 26: "ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS IN WAR DIPLOMACY IS THAT HITLER APPARENTLY NOW FEELS IT NECESSARY TO REPLY TO MR CHAMBERLAIN WHENEVER THE LATTER SPEAKS, AS IF HE FEARED THAT MR CHAMBERLAIN'S WORDS WERE SOMEHOW GETTING THROUGH TO GERMANY", WRITES TODAY'S 'NEW YORK TIMES'.

"OVER THE WEEK-END ANOTHER HASTILY THOUGHT UP OCCASION WAS MADE FOR HIM TO SPEAK.

"HE USED IT FOR A BIT OF EXTRAVAGANT COMMENDATION WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN MATCHED EVEN IN HIS OWN LONG EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD.

SECRET

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Mediterranean.

SALZBURG — Arrived Braila (Macrae, Galatz, 1636/15)

~~Dutch E.I.~~ China.

SOPHIE RICKMERS. — (7033 tons) Reported in Press that she attempted to scuttle herself at Sabang but was put ashore and can probably be salvaged.

South Atlantic.

MONTEVIDEO, WINDHUK — Remain under guard. (Cin C SA 0901/15)

"IT IS TRUE THAT THERE ARE MANY GERMANS - AND POSSIBLY THE NUMBER OF THEM IS GROWING RAPIDLY - WHO HAVE ARRIVED AT THREE CONCLUSIONS:

"1. THAT IN VIEW OF THE DEFENSIVE STRENGTH OF THE MAGINOT LINE, THE DOMINATION OF THE SEAS BY THE BRITISH FLEET, AND THE ENORMOUS ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE DOMINIONS IN THE FIELD OF AVIATION, IT IS UTTERLY IMPROBABLE THAT THE GERMANS CAN WIN THE PRESENT WAR;

"2. THAT IF THE WAR LASTS LONG ENOUGH IT WILL END IN THE COMPLETE BOLSHEVISATION OF GERMANY;

"3. THAT THE CHANCES ARE MUCH BRIGHTER NOW THAT THE ALLIED NATIONS WILL RECOGNISE THAT IT IS IN THEIR OWN INTEREST TO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF A MORE RESPONSIBLE AND MORE DEMOCRATIC GERMAN GOVERNMENT, IF ONE CAN BE ESTABLISHED."

B-2 --REUTER

09.52 PARIS AND MR SUMNER WELLES

PARIS, FEB 26: THE VISIT OF MR SUMNER WELLES WHO ARRIVED IN ROME YESTERDAY TO BEGIN HIS TOUR OF VARIOUS EUROPEAN CAPITALS

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS.
East Indies.

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

LEANDER — My 1620 2/15. LEANDER is to proceed Colombo for refit.
(Australia N.B., 1621 2/15)

Australia.

Admty 1338/15. Assume you will recall H.M.A.S. SYDNEY. A.C.N.B. are advising route and position of R.N. with SHROPSHIRE in accordance with my 0951 2/8. LEANDER is being instructed to proceed to Colombo.
(Australia N.B., 1620 2/15) Admiralty concur (OOD(F) 2009/15)

09.25 "DESTROY BRITAIN" : NAZI PRESS OUTBURST. FEB 28

"DESTROY BRITAIN" IS THE WATCHWORD OF GERMANY'S PRESS AND WIRELESS ON THE EVE OF MR SUMNER WELLES' VISIT TO BERLIN.

"PEACE IS UNTHINKABLE WITHOUT THE REMOVAL OF BRITISH PLUTOCRACY", DECLARES THE OFFICIAL 'DIPLOMATISCHE KORRESPONDENZ', QUOTED BY THE GERMAN RADIO THIS MORNING.

"GREAT BRITAIN'S TERROR MUST BE BROKEN BEFORE EUROPE CAN BE RE-ESTABLISHED.

"THE FUEHRER FIGHTS TO DESTROY BRITAIN; HE ALONE SPEAKS FOR GERMANY."

GOERING'S NEWSPAPER THE 'NATIONAL ZEITUNG' OF ESSEN, WRITES: "THE FUEHRER HIMSELF STATES THAT THIS WAR MUST BE WAGED UNTIL VICTORY HAS BEEN WON AND BRITAIN'S PLUTOCRACY COMPLETELY ANNIHILATED. WE ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE OUR GOOD CAUSE TRIUMPH." --REUTER

B-2

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS. 15 ~~13~~.5.1940 ~~Monday.~~ Wednesday

+ ~~East Indies~~ Mediterranean

ANTENOR need not remain in Mediter. in event of war with Italy (Adty. 1559/14, Ci/Med. 1146/15)

CARLISLE ~~Left~~ To proceed to Mediterranean (Ci/HF 1200/15)

CURLEW Required to go to Mediterranean at once and cannot be relieved for about 10 days. Can you do without an A-A cruiser in meantime? (Ci/HF 1117/14 to RA(A)

A/c mines Efficient lash out service for parachute mines is most important both at Alexandria and Suez Canal. Steps to be taken in case magnetic minesweepers do not arrive E. Mediter. in time (DMS 1318/15)

DW 1 a/cs & being flown to Egypt (DMS 1806/15)

Fiume. SUSAK reports entrance to Fiume Harbour closed 13~~th~~ May by two lines of netting held afloat by Can buoys from end of breakwater to Mole opposite. No defences on breakwater.

Another report states Italian authorities at Lagosta reported a mine had broken adrift; this mine was found off Korcula by Yugo-slavia authorities. Both reports assessed A one.

(S.O.I., Malta, 1147/15)

7

11.54 LONDON RUBBER MAY 10.

IRREGULAR: SPOT...11-3/4 BUYER JUNE...11-7/8 PAID BUYER

JLY/SEPT...11-7/8 PAID BUYER OCT/DEC...11-7/8 PAID VALUE

JAN/MAR...11-7/8 VALUE --REUTER

M-2

SECRET 15.5.40
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS
Mediterranean.

Reinforcements. Programme for sailing.

Groups I. KINGSTON, KHARTOUM, KANDAHAR, NUBIAN, HYPERION, HOSTILE, HASTY leave Plymouth 16/5

Groups II AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO, EGRET leave Plymouth 16/5

Groups III CARLISLE, KIMBERLEY, MOHAWK, HAVOCK, HEREWARD, HERO, ILEX, JANUS, JUNO, IMPERIAL leave Plymouth pm/17 or as soon as ready.

All groups proceed Gibraltar at best speed. C in C Med. issue orders for onward sailing from Gibraltar (D00 (H) 1951/15)

~~C in C HF 1932/40. Tribal and~~

Ex at request of C in C Nore CARLISLE has been made available to proceed to Mediterranean and has been ordered to proceed to Plymouth (C in C HF 1200/15)

CONTE DI SAVOIA Sailed 13/5 according to usual routine for Naples and is due to return here and sails for New York (Mr. Symonds, Genoa No. 46 14/5)

PLEASE SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING FOR THE FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS OF

...2...PIERLOT:

"OUR TROOPS, WHO HAVE ADAPTED THEMSELVES TO THE NEW METHODS OF WARFARE, RESISTED ADMIRABLY AND AT THE END OF THE DAY WERE HOLDING ALL THEIR POSITIONS.

"CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE DISPOSITIONS OF OUR TROOPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN OF THE HIGH COMMAND. THIS WAS DONE FOLLOWING ORDERS AND WITHOUT INCIDENT".

CH-1 REUTER

CORRECTION:

PLEASE READ LAST PART OF...4...PIERLOT:

"THE HOUR WILL COME WHEN EVERYTHING WILL BE REPAID.

"WHILE AWAITING IT, LET US KEEP UP OUR COURAGE.

SECRET

15-5-40
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Destroyers
Concentration

As it is essential to get destroyers to the Mediterranean without delay ZULU, SIKH, ISIS, IMOGEN, and INGLEFIELD will not ~~repetition not~~ proceed.

ILEX is to defer boiler cleaning and be sailed so as to be ready to join destroyers leaving Plymouth p.m. ~~17th May.~~ 17/s.

Captain D.7 is to detail two ~~repetition two.~~ destroyers from JANUS, JAGUAR, and JUNO, which should be ready to sail from Plymouth 17~~th May.~~ 15. Names to be reported.

Captain D.7 should embark in one himself.

~~Further signal follows.~~

1818/15)

(D.O.D. (H)

~~Approved V.C.N.S.~~

Admy 1818/14. WISHART and WRESTLER to arrive Marseilles 1600/18. (DD 7 Gibraltar 1230A/15)

AND FINANCE, AND MINISTERS ASSIGNED TO POSTS OF AN ECONOMIC

NATURE.

"THE SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO AN EXAMINATION OF THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS RELATING TO COLONIES AND ARMAMENTS, WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE NEXT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS". --REUTER.

S-2

14.53 GERMAN DEFENCE LINE ON DANISH FRONTIER

COPENHAGEN, FEB 26: AUTHORITATIVE CIRCLES HERE SAY THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE REPORTS THAT GERMANY IS BUILDING A DEFENCE LINE SOUTH OF THE DANISH FRONTIER.

B-1 --REUTER

14.53 TIN FLASH... QUOTA FOR THE SECOND QUARTER

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS.
Mediterranean.

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Policy. Unconfirmed report, graded C.3, states that from now onwards Italian merchant vessels will be escorted, REX in particular has been mentioned. While legally it would be correct to stop senior ship of escort to ascertain nature of cargoes and details of passengers, it is at the present moment of the very greatest importance that we should avoid any incident with Italy that might result in war. Our whole policy is directed to ensuring that if war should come it shall be clear beyond all doubt that it is Italy who has forced it on us. For these reasons no attempt is to be made to interfere with Italian escorts or escorted vessels. (D. of P., 0003/15, to C.in C., Med., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C., E.I., and S.O.R.F.S.)

Istanbul Sailings. Asking if can confirm Italian Adriatica line to suspended sailings to Istanbul. (D.N.I. to N.A., Istanbul, 1834/15)

NOTO MARU Japanese ship with enemy cargo. Cancelling Admy 1150/24/4 re interception. (DEWD 1327/15 to C in C Med)

~~High Command Adm Commanding Naval Detachment Kelk now under orders of British C in C (D.N.I. (Natal) 2338/15).~~

Italian Reservists.

My telegram No. 1934 May 14th.

On enquiry at Ministry of Marine today N.A. informed reservists called up were only those ratings required for special training in various branches which was a matter of routine.

(N.A. Rome. 1304/15)

TAKE POSSESSION OF OUR DEAR COUNTRY.

"WITH COURAGE AND SUCCESS UNEXPECTED BY THE GERMAN BRIGANDS WE ARE DEFENDING OUR FREE LAND OF THE NETHERLANDS."

S-2 --REUTER.

09.51 REFUGEES POURING INTO PARIS.

PARIS, MAY 13: CROWDS OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE HAVE BEEN POURING INTO PARIS BY TRAIN FROM BELGIUM, SAYS "LE MATIN".

FOREIGN STATIONS

SECRET

15.5.40
Wednesday

MEDITERRANEAN

~~Operations~~

~~Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Station ceases to be in command of the Mediterranean Fleet (Admiralty message 0020/7) He himself is then to be in command of the Allied Naval Forces employed (D.O.D.(F) to C-in-C Mediterranean, 0037/15).~~

Naval mails. Routeing of naval mails via Italy has been temporarily suspended. (Hd. of M., 1902/15)

16.50 WELSH TINPLATE ORDERS. APL 22.

ORDERS BOOKED BY WELSH TINPLATE MANUFACTURERS DURING THE WEEK ENDED APRIL 13, TOTALLED 279,231 BASIS BOXES COMPARED WITH 337,417 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. OF THE FORMER TOTAL, 162,194 BASIS BOXES WERE ON EXPORT ACCOUNT, AGAINST 205,426.

UNFILLED ORDERS ON APRIL 13 TOTALLED 8,944,741 BASIS BOXES COMPARED WITH 9,148,814 THE PREVIOUS WEEK.

CANCELLATION OF ORDERS FOR 83,171 BASIS BOXES DUE TO DEVELOPMENTS IN SCANDINAVIA ARE SO FAR KNOWN, BUT IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BOXES INVOLVED MAY BE OVER 200,000.

IN SOME INSTANCES, MANUFACTURERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DISPOSE OF FINISHED MATERIAL DESTINED FOR SCANDINAVIA, TO OTHER CENTRES. --REUTER.

~~GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.~~
~~Home Commands.~~

SECRET

15-5-1940
~~21.4.1940~~
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

Concentration. Mny 0102/14 Ships will take out to Mediterranean additional depth charges and ammunition including 2800 rounds of 4.7" H.E.T.F. for destroyer guns. Any quantities of this ammunition not yet despatched in accordance with my 1645/22/4 are to remain.
(D.T.S.D., 1740/15)

.-.

GREAT BRITAIN AND SUMMER-TIME

GREAT BRITAIN REVERTS TO SUMMER-TIME ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 24/25. UNTIL THE ADVENT OF SUMMER-TIME IN THE UNITED STATES - SOMETIME IN APRIL - THE HOURS OF TRANSMISSION ON THE TICKER WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS..09.00 TO 22.00

SATURDAYS..09.00 TO 21.00

SUNDAYS..EXTENDED SERVICE ONLY FROM 09.00 TO 21.00

N O T E: THE SERVICE TO A LARGE NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS CEASES ON SATURDAYS AT THE CLOSE OF WALL STREET, BUT SHOULD ANY SUBSCRIBER WISH TO HAVE THE SERVICE UNTIL 21.00 WILL THEY KINDLY ADVISE US BY TELEPHONING CENTRAL 6884 OR 6885, WHEREUPON THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE. --REUTER

CH-1

.-.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
North Atlantic.

SECRET

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Portuguese Trade — Msg 1300/14. Can get all Porto Line to carry cargo between Portugal and U.K. if owners assured that ships sent U.K. will be permitted to bring return cargo to Portugal. Details. (NCSO Lisbon, 1200/15)

Italian move. — Known part the 4 Italian trawlers fishing from Las Palmas received instructions to complete with oil fuel, embark all depot stores and return to Italy. (NCSO Las Palmas, 1735/15)

MERCATOR — Belgian training ship, arrived at Lobito 13/5. (SOI, Capetown, 1208/15)

09.27 NAZI LEADER ARRESTED IN YUGOSLAV

BELGRADE, FEB 28: THE PRESIDENT OF THE GER
LJULBJANA, HAS BEEN ARRESTED BY THE YUGOSLA
LEADER OF A GESTAPO CELL IN THE TOWN.

THE ARREST MARKS THE CULMINATING POINT
ILLEGAL PRACTICES BY THE GERMAN MINORITY IN
FIFTEEN PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY BEEN ARRESTED.

THE CHIEF OBJECT OF THE NAZI ORGANISAT
IS ALLEGED, IS TO KEEP WATCH ON THE ACTIVIT
THE COUNTRY TOGETHER WITH OTHER FUNCTIONS O
MILITARY ESPIONAGE. --REUTER

B-2

09.29. NEW BRITISH PLANES ORDER FOR U.S.

FOREIGN STATIONS. 15.5.1940
North ~~South~~ Atlantic. ~~Tuesday~~. Wednesday

SECRET

5 AMC's for coast of Portugal

My 1809/14. The 5 AMC's will come under your orders. Concert with Admiral Afrique as to their employment in area covered by your commands. Admiral Ouest should be kept informed of your dispositions and will cooperate with his patrol forces (1st SL 0053/15 to FOCNA)

FOCNA issue early preliminary instructions to AMC's pending final decisions arrived at after consultation with Admiral Afrique. DERBYSHIRE and CHESHIRE have sailed. Para 1 of my 1809/14 is not intended to restrict watch to Vigo and Lisbon (000(F)1515/15 to FOCNA)

CHESHIRE can sail 0500 today, DERBYSHIRE can sail 1030 today. (VANP., 0230/15)

FRONTIERS AT 05.30 TODAY.

"ENEMY RESISTANCE NEAR THE FRONTIER WAS BROKEN EVERYWHERE ENERGETICALLY, OFTEN IN CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH THE AIR FORCE.

"A GERMAN U-BOAT SANK A BRITISH SUBMARINE IN THE WATERS OFF TERSCHELLING.

"A GERMAN SPEED-BOAT SANK AN ENEMY DESTROYER BY TORPEDO ACTION DURING OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH SEA". --REUTER

CH-1

18.18 SOVIET POLICY :: REPORTS DENIED.

MOSCOW, MAY 10: A DENIAL OF REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS ENGAGED IN SECRET TALKS WITH SWEDEN AND FINLAND FOR PACTS OF [illegible] BETWEEN MOSCOW AND THE

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

Patrol Areas.

624 Para: (i) Pending agreement with French, following provisional patrols are established; A.E. between parallels 038° 30' North 042° 30' North and Meridian 010° 30' West and 011° 00' West A.F. between parallels 041° 45' North 044° 00' North and Meridian 014° 00' West and 015° 00' West A.H. between parallels 039° 25' North 041° 30' North and Meridians 014° 00' West and 015° 00' West A.J. between parallels 037° 00' North 039° 10' North and Meridian 014° 00' West and 015° 00' West A.K. between position 036° 30' North 014° 00' West and position 034° 30' North 011° 30' West. Assume patrols as follows; H.M.S. CORINTHIA, A.K., H.M.S. DERBYSHIRE, A.F., H.M.S. CHESHIRE, A.H., H.M.S. PATROCLUS, A.J., H.M.S. ASTURIAS, A.E. Report expected time of arrival on patrol.

Para: (ii) Ships on patrol A.E., are to steam Northward during darkness. Northbound French Convoy may be met within area A E.

Para: (iii) Object to intercept and capture Italian shipping endeavouring to reach Lisbon and Vigo if hostilities commence against Italy.

Para: (iv) Information regarding French co-operation and disposition of forces will be passed by signal.

(7OC N.A., 1822/15)

09.37 HITLER AND MUSSOLINI MEETING

ROME, MAR 18: HITLER AND SIGNOR MUSSOLINI ARE MEETING THIS MORNING ON THE BRENNER.

ITALY LEARNT THE NEWS BY WIRELESS, SINCE THE MONDAY NEWSPAPERS, ON ACCOUNT OF THE SUNDAY REST, ONLY APPEAR AT NOON.

DISPATCHES COMING IN FROM ABROAD SHOW TO WHAT EXTENT THE MEETING HAS EVERYWHERE CAUSED A SENSATION, AND HOW EAGERLY ITS RESULTS ARE BEING AWAITED. --REUTER

B-2

09.38 HOPE ABANDONED FOR 71 ENTOMBED MINERS

ST CLAIRSVILLE, OHIO, MAR 18: THE OWNERS OF THE WILLOW CREEK MINE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HOPE OF RESCUING ANY OF THE 71 MEN ENTOMBED IN THE PIT FOLLOWING AN EXPLOSION ON SATURDAY HAS NOW VIRTUALLY BEEN ABANDONED. --REUTER

War Diary

SECRET

15. 5. 1940
Wednesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ELGIN — M/s Trawler damaged. Portsmouth required for repairs (F.O. Humber 1229/15)

SOMALI — Bombed and damaged, see Air

BRILLIANT / BOREAS — In collision yesterday and are now at Sheerness (V.A. Dover 1304/15)
BOREAS hull damaged above and below waterline forward. Starboard bowchaser and Starboard A frame probably damaged.
BRILLIANT also due for refit. Both ships require docking (C in C. Nore 15-19/15)

B-1 --REUTER

14.42 MORE DEMONSTRATIONS IN ROME.

ROME, MAY 14: STUDENTS OF ALL AGES WERE GIVEN ANOTHER HOLIDAY TODAY WHICH THEY UTILISED FOR FRESH DEMONSTRATIONS.

THEY WERE JOINED BY A FAIR SPRINKLING OF PLAIN-CLOTHES DETECTIVES.

SOME 5,000 OR 6,000 WERE ALLOWED ALONG THE STREET EIGHT OR TEN ABREAST BLOCKING TRAFFIC, SINGING SCHOOL AND PATRIOTIC SONGS AND OCCASIONALLY SHOUTING SLOGANS. WHAT THE SLOGANS WERE WAS NOT CLEAR.

THEY MARKED TO THE PIAZZA VENEZIA AND SHOUTED FOR SIGNOR

HOME COMMANDS.

SECRET

15.5.40
Wednesday.

Weather.

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea N. of 55°N.	W. moderate, fresh locally	Showers	mainly good
S. of 55°N	Light, variable	Fine to cloudy	mainly good, moderate in coastal haze.
Horns Reef	E. light to moderate	Cloudy	mainly good except for haze
Channel	generally N, light.	Cloudy.	good
W. Approaches	N.W. light	Fine to cloudy	good
Coast of Norway	SE to S, moderate. fresh locally.	Rain, fog patches in South, cloudy in North.	moderate to poor in fog.

.....BATAVIA, MAY 15.....MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ASSURE THE MAINTENANCE OF THE GUILDER IN THE DUTCH EAST INDIES AT ITS OLD LEVEL, DECLARED THE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN A BROADCAST SPEECH TODAY.

THE HARVEST NOW COMING ING, HE SAID, WAS GENERALLY GOOD WHILE RESERVE STOCKS HAD BEEN ACCUMULATED DURING THE PAST YEAR.

BECAUSE OF ACTION TAKEN IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS SUPPLIES OF IMPORTED GOODS ON HAND WERE PARTICULARLY LARGE.

IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED THAT FOREIGN TRAFFIC WOULD BE RESUMED SHORTLY.

A MORATORIUM WAS BELIEVED TO BE UNNECESSARY. --REUTER

CH-1

19.45. GERMANS ORDER BLACK-OUT IN HOLLAND MAY 15.

RADIO HOLLAND, NOW UNDER GERMAN CONTROL, ANNOUNCED THIS [illegible] BLACK-OUT, WHICH WAS CANCELLED ON THE CESSATION

HOME COMMANDS

15.5.40
Wednesday.

SECRET

Miscellaneous

Rosyth defences — Shortage of military S/L's. (C-C Rosyth 1151/15)

Bothnia
Ice.

Adty 1754/14

1754/14. Gulf of Bothnia porous ice in the Skerries and in shore heavy ice at sea preventing navigation. Lulea not expected to be open before the end of May but much depends on wind. Reliability unassessed.

(A.N.A. Stockholm, 1232/15)

Dutch Time.

Special Message

In Dutch from Hilversum.

Tonight at midnight Dutch time will be placed on same footing as German time. Therefore all watches and clocks at midnight must be advanced one hour and forty minutes (1.40)

(Hilversum, 2140/15)

19.39. JUBILATION IN BERLIN PRESS

.....B E R L I N, MAY 15.....BERLIN EVENING NEWSPAPERS NATURALLY MAKE THE MOST TODAY OF THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN HOLLAND.

"HOLLAND'S CAPITULATION BRINGS WAR TO ENGLAND'S GATES", IS A CHARACTERISTIC EXAMPLE OF THEIR HUGE HEADLINES.

THE "LOKALANZEIGER" STRESSES THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE GERMAN SUCCESS.

"GERMANY HAS OBTAINED A NEAR-BY AIR BASE AGAINST BRITAIN", IT DECLARES.

THE NEWSPAPER ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE FREEING OF "STRONG GERMAN FORCES" MEANS INCREASED PRESSURE ON NORTHERN BELGIUM AND A RAPID STRENGTHENING OF THE GERMAN RIGHT WING IN GENERAL.

THE BERLIN "BOERSEN-ZEITUNG" SAYS: "FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD, THE MAGINOT LINE WAS THE SYMBOL OF INVINCIBILITY. THE

HOME COMMANDS. 15.5.40
Wednesday

SECRET

Shipping.

Shortage of pilots — at Portland is causing serious delay to movements of ships (FOIC Portland 1920/15)

CC Bases — to be closed. Skeleton staffs to be retained at Kirkwall, Oban, Weymouth. (Press)

Rotterdam-Lloyd. — Management transferred from Rotterdam to Batavia. Sailings to Europe postponed. Atlantic, Pacific sailings maintained (Press, Singapore, 1723/15)

Routes.

Ships proceeding independently Northbound through the Irish Sea should be routed West of a line joining positions 70° Smalls 12 miles, 270° Skerries 12 miles, 54° 00' N. 05° 3' W, 54° 30' N 05° 10' W, and 55° 00' N. 05° 27' W.

Southbound shipping and convoys are routed to the eastward of this line, and when between the latitudes of the Skerries and the Smalls keep within a zone joining positions 270° Skerries 12 miles, 270° Skerries 5 miles, 270° Smalls 5 miles and 270° Smalls 12 miles.

1710/15)

~~from~~ D.T.D.)

16.40 THE MEXICAN EAGLE OIL COMPANY LTD. MAY 9.

THE LONDON FINANCIAL AGENTS OF THE MEXICAN EAGLE OIL COMPANY LIMITED, ARE ADVISED BY THE MANAGERS THAT THE REPORT IN TODAY'S PRESS THAT THE COMPANY IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT FOR A SETTLEMENT ALONG THE LINES SIMILAR TO THE RECENTLY REPORTED SETTLEMENT WITH THE CONSOLIDATED OIL COMPANY (SINCLAIR) IS ENTIRELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

S-1 " " --REUTER.

SECRET

15
~~12~~
~~13~~.5.1940
~~Friday~~.
~~Sunday~~
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS.
Enemy Intelligence.

Transport convoys sighted — certainly sunk by TAKU 8/5 (S2 1114/15)
SUNFISH sighted escorted southbound convoys 57°58'N 10°08'E and 57°54'N 10°10'E 4/5 both out of range; 9/5 made unsuccessful attacks on escorted convoy 57°51'N 10°42'E course 290° (VA(S) 1756/15)

Suspicious motor boat — VENOMOUS chasing fast motor boat on Westerly course in Q2560. No reply to challenge (VENOMOUS 0320/15)

EMDEN — German cruiser, lying since 12/4 alongside VIPPETANGBRYGGEN at Oslo. There are bomb-dumps on Bronli quays and ammunition in sheds on Utsikker (A-2). (Stockholm, 1831/15)

12.02. U.S. OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN SILVER PURCHASES

.....WASHINGTON, FEB 21.....ADDITIONAL OPPOSITION TO THE CONTINUANCE OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN SILVER PURCHASE PROGRAMME IS SEEN IN THE LATEST ACTION OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

THE COUNCIL HAS ASKED THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD TO TRANSMIT ITS RESOLUTION FAVOURING THE DISCONTINUANCE OF SUCH PURCHASES FORTHWITH TO THE BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

THIS COMMITTEE IS NOW CONSIDERING A BILL SPONSORED BY SENATOR JOHN G. TOWNSEND (REPUBLICAN, DELAWARE) FOR THE REPEAL OF THE SILVER PURCHASE PROVISIONS OF THE SILVER PURCHASE ACT.

CH-1 SEE --2-- REUTER

HOME COMMANDS.
Mining.

SECRET

15.4.1940
Wednesday.

Dutch Coast, Enemy mines.

Following from D.19, Hook of Holland. Magnetic mines were dropped in positions 280° 6 cables and 276° 4 cables from GP. OCC. High Light at 2300/14. (VA., Dover, 1221/15)

Customs Grangemouth have passed mining report from Master of SS. DUNMOIR referring to period 0300 to 0515/10/5 off Harwich. 3 enemy A/C over Sordijn Gap flew on line between 51° 26' 40" N., 3° 33' 30" E and 51° 24-1/2' N., 3° 28 1/2' E. dropped about 8 mines. Parachutes and splashes seen. (C in C Rosyth 1617/15)

British mines.

Requesting air cooperation for Operations CBX 2 and CBX 3 (Admty 1539/15)
Correct position CBX 3 on a ground line 258° extending for 15 miles from a position 258° Scheveningen light seven miles. (DMS 1646/15)
INTREPID to carry out Operation CBX 2 (INTREPID 1816/15)

MERCHANT VESSELS HAD BEEN SUNK AND 34 OF THE CREWS HAD BEEN LOST.

ALSO SPEAKING IN THE SENATE BUDGET DEBATE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, SIGNOR BEVIONE, DECLARED THAT "THE WESTERN PLUTOCRACIES, SATIATED WITH TERRITORIES AND RICH IN MONOPOLIES, ARE CHERISHING ILLUSIONS IF THEY THINK THAT THE WILL OF THE DUCE TO BREAK DOWN THE MEDITERRANEAN BARRIERS CAN BE FRUSTRATED BY DIFFICULTIES OF THE ITALIAN FINANCIAL SITUATION.

"THE SENATE LOUDLY PROCLAIMS ITS CONVICTION THAT THESE CALCULATIONS WILL BE SWEPT AWAY BY THE REALITY AND THAT ITALIAN PUBLIC FINANCES WILL BRING THEIR SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO AN IMPLACABLE VICTORY." --REUTER

M-1

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS

15.5.40
Wednesday

Missing.

Trawlers for Zeebrugge — 4 Trawlers do to be held ready to sail (Adm. S. 1158/15 to C-in-C Nore)

Operations PC — Completed (S04th M/S F 1420/15)

Sweeping reports. — 1 mine exploded by ship in Shambles area (Forth Portland 1620/15)

7 Mines encountered. ~~At 4 of the mine appears. 090° = 270° 1½ mile, buoy~~ off mouth of Tyne (Forth Tyne 2110/15)

Operations FD — RUBIS to carry out FD15 (VAS 1248/15)

Mine laying off Dutch coast — by 5 destroyers night 15/16 (RA(S) 1733/15) ~~Dia~~ Position where actually laid (RA(S) 1002/16)

GREBBE LINE RUNNING FROM AMERSFOORT TO THE RHINE, AND THE PEEL LINE FURTHER SOUTH, HAVE BEEN BROKEN IN THE ADVANCE POSITIONS.

"BETWEEN HASSELT AND MAASTRICHT THE PASSAGE OF THE ALBERT CANAL HAS BEEN FORCED.

"THE EBEN EMAEL FORT, AS ALREADY REPORTED, IS IN GERMAN HANDS. THE COMMANDER AND GARRISON OF 1,000 MEN HAVE SURRENDERED.

"OPPOSITE LIEGE GERMAN TROOPS HAVE IN SOME PLACES PENETRATED DEEP INTO THE ADVANCED POSITIONS OF THE FROTIFICATIONS. GERMAN TROOPS ADVANCING THROUGH SOUTH BELGIUM HAVE GAINED GROUND RAPIDLY IN SPITE OF ENEMY RESISTANCE. THE WHOLE OF LUXEMBOURG IS IN GERMAN HANDS.

"ON MAY 11 THE GERMAN AIR FORCE CONTINUED THE LARGE-SCALE ATTACKS BEGUN ON THE PREVIOUS DAY AGAINST THE ENEMY AIR FORCE IN FRANCE, BELGIUM AND HOLLAND.

"A LARGE NUMBER OF AIR BASES WERE AGAIN ATTACKED, AND HANGARS SET ON FIRE, SHIPYARDS DESTROYED AND MUNITION STORES EXPLODED.

"WE SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING 30 PLANES AT VRAUX AIR BASE AND 36 AT ORLEANS.

"A FURTHER 52 PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN IN AIR BATTLES AND 12 BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE. IT CAN BE SAFELY ACCEPTED THAT A TOTAL OF 300 ENEMY PLANES ON SATURDAY FELL VICTIMS TO OUR ATTACKS AND AIR DEFENCES.

Air.

15-5-40
Wednesday

Enemy air activity.

SECRET

FOSCOLO — Belgian, 3059 tons, reported 1245 GMT from Ostend Radio bombed, attacked, sinking. Immediate assistance. No position given. (N. Foreland Radio, no T.O.O., /15)
(Ostend Radio, 1346/15)

PANAGHIOTIS TH. KOUMANTAROS. Asking permission to enter Zeebrugge, having been bombed by German aeroplanes. Captain Fotopoulos. (Intercept, addressed Ostend, from H.C.O.S. no T.O.O./15)
Intercept from EUGENIA, 2034/15, reported KOUMANTAROS left Flushing p.m. after having sustained many air raids. At 0500 ~~HS~~ p.m. (? 1700) German a/c bombed and machine-gunned 3 times, considerable damage to hull and machinery. Crew unhurt so far. Trying to repair at Ostend.
(N Foreland Radio, 2156/15)

VILLE DE BRUGES — Belgian 13,869 tons, believed to be a total loss (left Antwerp 14/5). Probably bombed (D.S. 15/5)

BRABO — Belgian 3699 tons, twice bombed near Zeebrugge, steering gear damaged. (D.S. 15/5)

TO WATCH MORE CLOSELY THAN EVER THE BUILDING UP OF STOCKS, SIGNOR RICCARDI, MINISTER OF FOREIGN EXCHANGES, TOLD THE ITALIAN SENATE TODAY.

ITALY COULD NOT, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THINK OF REDUCING ITS IMPORTS, HE ADDED.

"THOSE WHO WOULD ATTEMPT TO DENY US THIS RIGHT UNDER THE PRETEXT OF STOPPING HYPOTHETICAL CONTRABAND", HE DECLARED "SHOW THAT THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF OUR ECONOMIC NEEDS.

"THEY ARE COMMITTING VERITABLE ACTS OF SABOTAGE AGAINST ITALIAN WORK AND W RKERS". --REUTER

CH-1

CORRECTION:

SECRET

Air

15-5-1940
Wednesday

Enemy Air Activity.

SOMALI — Bombed at 2330/14 in his area (Capt D.6 0744/15). CURLEW to join her and escort to Scapa. (C-in-C HF 1236/15) Flooded forward to 30 bulkhead also "A" shell room and pom-pom magazine. Maintaining 12 knots, but bad weather might cause further flooding. Tenedos destroyer FOUDROYANT escorting. (Capt (D) 6, 0915/15)
Minor casualties 6-5 ratings only.

CHROBRY — Bombed and abandoned see Situation Report.

HUSSAR — Has 3 killed, 10 wounded (1 dangerously 2 seriously). HUSSAR will require tug. (SO 4th M/S Flotilla, 1423/15, C-in-C Nore, 0817/15)

BOTHNIA — Swedish, 1948 tons, Swedish report says boarded by S/C of unknown nationality on 12/5. Crew landed at Aarhus after being picked up by German minesweeper.

TETI — Greek, 2747 tons, armed Grounded with damage to forepart from a bomb. (DS. 15/5)

15.36 NEW ZEALAND LABOUR BACK MR ATTLEE.

WELLINGTON, FEB 21: "TO FAIL TO RENDER THE FULLEST SUPPORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NAZIISM WOULD BE TO BRAND THE LABOUR MOVEMENT AS POLITICALLY IRRESPONSIBLE OR WORSE" DECLARES A STATEMENT ENDORSED BY A CONF[illegible]ENCE OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF THE NEW ZEALAND LABOUR PARTY AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION OF LABOUR TODAY.

THE CONFERENCE ENDORSED THE BRITISH LABOUR PARTY'S PEACE AIRMS AS ENUNCIATED BY MR ATTLEE, STATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CONSCRIPTION IN NEW ZEALAND WHILE LABOUR WAS IN POWER AND MADE A DECLARATION IN FAVOUR OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND OPINION.

S-2 --REUTER.

HOME COMMANDS.
Air.

SECRET

Enemy Air Activity.

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

WINCHESTER — Bombed 170 CPTS 25. (WINCHESTER 0440/15) 3 attacks, 1 dynamo, 1 air pump out of action, port turbine fuel fractured, position 188° CPTS 26 course 235°. (WINCHESTER, 0514/15) No 2 oil tank leaking (WINCHESTER 0648/15)

SPEEDWELL — Bombed 068 OFS 60 (SPEEDWELL 0920/15)

VERSATILE — VERSATILE (T1) bombed off Dutch coast yesterday 7 dead 13 wounded. Ship has arrived Sheerness (Adty to B.N.L.O. Marceau 2011/14)

Unknown ship — Damaged steering gear, forced to enter Zeebrugge. (N. Foreland Radio, 1220/15)
Bomber just missed us, already damaged this morning, passing Zeebrugge bound out Ostend. (N. Foreland Radio, 1256/15)

EUGENIA — Receiving continuous bombing from German aeroplane (N. Foreland Radio 1627/15)
Bombed, outside Zeebrugge (N. Foreland Radio 1641/15½, 1724/15)
Distress call cleared (Portishead Radio 0217/16)

VALENTINE — Hit by two bombs and aground near Terneuzen. One boiler exploded. No officers killed. Probably 20 men killed and some other casualties. Understand ship cannot be salved. All C[illegible] and secret matter destroyed. Co. intends to destroy guns, etc. (V.a. Dover, 1813/15)

NIVERN — Damaged by bomb splinters above water line. Wardroom wrecked. Ship on steam. Request where she can be received. (V.a. Dover, 1202/15)

11.20 BONUS CLAIMED FOR 1,000,000 ACRES. FEB 21.

APPROXIMATELY 82,000 APPLICATIONS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, COVERING A MILLION ACRES, HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOR THE £2 AN ACRE BONUS FOR THE PLOUGHING UP OF GRASSLAND.

THIS IS STATED IN A WRITTEN ANSWER TODAY BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SIR REGINALD DORMAN-SMITH).

THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS PAID AND AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT TOTAL 16,156. A FURTH R 3,000 ARE UNDER EXAMINATION. IN THE REMAINING CASES THE NECESSARY CERTIFICATES HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE COUNTY WAR AGRICULTURAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAID OR IN PROCESS OF PAYMENT TO DATE IN ENGLAND AND WALES IS APPROXIMATELY £450,000. --REUTER.

S-2

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Air.

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

British Air Activity.

Skuas with Blenheim escort bave Hatston 1100/15 to bomb objectives at Bergen. (ACOS 0950/15) Returned owing to fog (ACOS 1345/15)

Raids in Germany. Bomber Command are undertaking heavy attacks of important objectives within Germany tonight in consequence of which retaliation is likely. You should be prepared in all respects against this eventuality. (Air Ministry to all home commands, 2300/15) (DC, 0045/16)

Enemy MTBs 8- gun fighters not to be employed against MTBs, their role being the destruction of enemy bombers. Such air support as is practicable against this form of attack will be undertaken by a/c of Coastal Command. (Air Min, 1945/15)

OF OUR CHIEF COMPETITORS ESCAPED THESE BURDENS.

"I STRESS THESE POINTS NOT FROM ANY DESIRE TO BE PESSIMISTIC, BUT BECAUSE THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THIS COUNTRY MUST REALISE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE TASK WHICH FACES THEM. THE QUESTION OF PRICE MAY WELL BECOME DOMINANT".

THE SMALL MAN MUST BE GIVEN A CHANCE AS WELL AS THE BIG. MANY WHO HAD NEVER EXPORTED BEFORE WOULD BE CALLED ON TO DO THEIR SHARE.

"THE MOTTO WE HAVE IN OUR MINDS IS, 'WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET THE RAW MATERIALS; IT IS YOUR JOB, WITH OUR ASSISTANCE, TO GO OUT AND GET THE TRADE'.

"WAR TODAY IS NO LONGER AN AFFAIR ONLY BETWEEN ARMIES AND ARMIES. IT IS IN THE LAST RESORT A STRUGGLE BETWEEN MANUFACTURER AND MANUFACTURER, BETWEEN SHOPKEEPER AND SHOP-KEEPER".

EXPORTS COULD BE TERMED "A NEW BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE".

S-2 --REUTER.

SECRET

15-5-40
Wed.

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
~~Hook of Holland Evacuations~~

Operation Quixote - Cutting of Cables.

Orders for Operation Quixote, to cut simultaneously and as soon as possible the following cables in about 03° 20' E., or as near this longitude as you consider advisable.

(a) Knudsley - Norderney.
(b) Bacton - Borkum No 1
(c) Bacton - Borkum No 2
(d) Bacton - Borkum No. 3
(e) Lowestoft - Norderney
(f) Lowestoft - Borkum.

6 M/S trawlers from Yarmouth to be used. Can be assumed that the enemy will detect and locate the breaks in the cable to nearest mile as soon as they are cut so that air escort as well as suitable surface escort will be mustered. (D. H.S. W., 2055/15, to C-in-C Nore)

2

11.30. NAZI TRIBUTE TO FINNS "UNHEARD-OF BRAVERY"

.....COPENHAGEN, FEB 21.....TRIBUTES TO THE "UNHEARD-OF BRAVERY" OF THE FINNS AND FIELD MARSHAL MANNERHEIM'S "BRILLIANT AND COURAGEOUS" LEADERSHIP ARE PAID IN AN ARTICLE BY THE MILITARY COR

ESPONDENT OF THE "DEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG" TODAY.

THE ARTICLE IS QUOTED IN A SCANDINAVIAN TELEGRAM BUREAU D SPATCH FROM BERLIN APPEARING IN THE MIDDAY DANISH NEWSPAPER "B.T.".

"BUT DESPITE THE FINNS' BRAVE DEFENCE THE RESULT OF THE WAR CANNOT BE DOUBTED", THE GERMAN NEWSPAPER SAYS.

THE ARTICLE IS TAKEN AS A FIRST CAUTIOUS ATTEMPT TO PREPARE THE GERMAN PEOPLE FOR SOME SORT OF GERMAN PEACE PROPOSAL TO THE FINNS AND RUSSIANS, THE TELEGRAM BUREAU'S CORRESPONDENT SAYS.

IT APPEARS AT A TIME WHEN RUMOURS THAT GERMANY WILL TRY TO MEDIATE IN THE CONFLICT ARE ON THE INCREASE IN PERLIN.

OFFICIAL GERMAN CIRCLES REFUSE TO COMMENT ON THESE RUMOURS.

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
~~Operations~~.
Submarines.

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

French S/m's — Your 1831/15. Concur generally. French submarines should not, however, be based on an undefended port and should for preference go to Rosyth. (DDO(H) 2349/15 & V.A.S)

SUNFISH — Patrol report 4/5 to 9/5. (V.A.S. 1752/15)

TAKU — " " 5/5 to 13/5. On 8/5, 1715 position MBRU attacked 2 transports screened by 2 torpedo boats and at least 2 aircraft. Fired 10 torpedoes. Heard 3 explosions before depth charging commenced. Hunted for 5½ hours, no apparent damage. One transport certainly sunk. (S. 2, 1114/15)

16.07 WALL STREET RALLIES.

NEW YORK, MAY 15: WITH THE TICKER RUNNING EIGHT MINUTES BEHIND, THE MARKET - COINCIDENT WITH THE SHARP RALLY IN WHEAT - IMPROVED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF AIRCRAFT AND STEEL ISSUES. U.S. STEEL AND BETHLEHEM STEEL ARE AT PRESENT TWO AND FOK POINTS RESPECTIVELY ABOVE YESTERDAY'S CLOSING PRICES. DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT ARE 1-1/2 POINTS UP, WHILE AMERICAN TEL AND TEL HAVE PRACTICALLY RECOVERED THEIR EARLIER FOUR-POINT LOSS. --REUTER.

S-1 '' ''

HOME COMMANDS

15.5.40
W.Wednesday

SECRET

Submarines.

German a/c sighted some of our s/m's off Dutch coast before sunrise this morning (VAS 0941/15 to s/m's on patrol)

Bombing — s/m's in s/m Sanctuaries must never be bombed. S/m's may be bombed anywhere else in North Sea except in such areas as are restricted by signal from HQCC (HQCC 1440/15)

positions — 0600/16 (VAS.1844/15

~~Enemy s/m's~~ — 4o

B-2 --REUTER

''' '''

16.41 HOUSE OF COMMONS MAY 13.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 4:35 P.M. --REUTER

M-1

SECRET

15-5-40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Iceland - Operation Alabaster.

From War Office. Alabaster expects to arrive about 1400/17. Accommodation required for 180 Officers, 3628 other ranks. Force will be ready to operate actively if required. (D.O.D. (H) 2033/15 to York).

Admty. 1955/14 Escort for A.B.2 will be available after return of Alabaster. Balance of 50 troops can if necessary be accommodated in escorting destroyers, but cannot emergency accommodation be provided for this small number in the ships of the Convoy.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY DO NOT DENY THAT "SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN".

--ALLIES ACTIVITY IN NEAR EAST--

MEANWHILE, GERMAN MILITARY CIRCLES ARE CLOSELY WATCHING ALLIED MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN THE NEAR EAST, THE CORRESPONDENT CONTINUES.

THIS ACTIVITY IS TAKEN BY BERLIN AS A CONCRETE THREAT TO THE RUSSIAN OIL DISTRICTS, WHICH ARE NOW ALSO A "VITAL GERMAN INTEREST".

IT IS FELT THAT AN ALLIED ATTACK ON THE OILFIELDS WHILE THE RUSSIANS ARE HEAVILY COMMITTED IN FINLAND WOULD BE DANGEROUS BOTH TO RUSSIA AND GERMANY. REUTER

CH-1

U.S. HOLIDAY TOMORROW

ALL MARKETS IN THE UNITED STATES WILL REMAIN CLOSED ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 (WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY).

CH-1 --REUTER

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Convoys ~~0~~- Norway.

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

BELFORT — Previous instructions cancelled. BELFORT is to proceed to Clyde at once, route via Minches. (C-in-C HF 0947/15)

19.56. POLICE GUARDS STRENGTHENED ROUND BELGIAN MINISTRIES

.....B R U S S E L S, MAY 14.....POLICE GUARDS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED IN THE QUARTER WHERE ALL THE MINISTRIES ARE SITUATED TO PREVENT POSSIBLE ATTEMPTS BY GERMAN PARACHUTISTS TO PENETRATE.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES HAVE ALSO BEEN TAKEN AS A PRECAUTION.

IT IS KNOWN THAT THE NAZIS HAVE DROPPED PARACHUTISTS AT VARIOUS POINTS ROUND BRUSSELS DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS AND A NUMBER OF THEM HAVE NOT BEEN CAUGHT.

ON THIS THE FIFTH DAY OF THE WAR, BRUSSELS CONTINUES TO SHOW THE GREATEST CALM.

THE GOVERNMENT, IT IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED HERE, IS NOT LEAVING BRUSSELS.

ALL THE SHOPS ARE OPEN AND THE CAFES BETWEEN CERTAIN HOURS. TRAMS ARE RUNNING NORMALLY.

SECRET

15-5-40
Wednesday

Norway - Convoys

2nd French Light Division now at Clyde is to proceed Brest as soon as possible. Sailings for Convoys F.R.1, F.R.2, F.R.3. (5000(H) 2031/15)

Plan for re-embarking Deuxieme Division Legere de Chasseurs (FLO, Greenock, 2308/15)

N.S.3. Route. (Cin C Rosyth, 0440/15)

T11.44 INDUSTRIALS ACTIVE ON STOCK EXCHANGE. FEB 21.

THE EARLY PROMISE OF A BRIGHT SESSION IS BEING FULFILLED.

THE MAJOR PART OF THE BUSINESS IS BEING PUT THROUGH THE INDUSTRIAL MARKET, WHERE APART FROM AN ALL ROUND IMPROVEMENT IN IRON, STEEL AND COLLIERY SHARES, WOOLWORTH HAVE RISEN TO 64/-, TURNER AND NEWELL TO 65/6, DUNLOP TO 32/3 AND CHEMICALS TO 32/4-1/2.

THE BUYING IN THE GILT-EDGED MARKET IS CONCENTRATED ON THE MEDIUM DATED ISSUES AND IN THE HOME RAIL SECTION THE JUNIOR STOCKS ARE THE CENTRE OF ATTRACTION.

OIL SHARES HAVE GONE AHEAD SHARPLY, ROYAL DUTCH TO 32-1/2, SHELL TO 3-7/8 AND BURMAH TO 3-7/16.

KAFFIRS ARE ENJOYING A FAIR SELECTIVE DEMAND AND DIAMONDS ARE AGAIN TO THE FIRE, DE BEERS DEFERRED AT 6-1/16 AND CONSOLIDATED DIAMOND ORDINARY 5/6.

FOREIGN BONDS ARE QUIET WITH JAPANESE HALF A POINT EASIER.

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
~~Norway~~ Norway.

15.5.1040
Wednesday.

Mosjoen - Mo - Bodo

SOMALI bombed.

Bombed at 2330/14 in Mo area. Road is very exposed in many places and has already been reconnoitred by enemy aircraft. Doubt whether supply by this route is practicable and supply by sea is uncertain and hazardous. For these reasons Mo precarious. I consider that to continue to hold Mo is militarily unsound so long as German air superiority continues. At same time aerodrome is important and withdrawal will greatly depress Norwegians. Area can be held if supply by sea can be assured but guns and heavy M/guns are required. (Capt(D)6, 0744/15)

NORTH SEA HAS ALREADY BEEN CLAIMED BY GERMANY.

NO CONFIRMATION WHATEVER OF THESE CLAIMS IS AVAILABLE IN LONDON.

IT IS STATED THAT ONE FISHING BOAT WAS ATTACKED. REUTER

CH-1

12.10.

...2...U.S. OPPOSITION (12.02)...

MR. MARRINER C. ECCLES, CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD, HAD PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED THE SAME ATTITUDE.

COMMENTING ON THE ACTION OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, SENATOR TOWNSEND WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE, PREDICTED THAT IT WOULD FACILITATE THE PASSAGE OF HIS BILL.

SENATOR KEY PITTMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SUGGESTED THAT THE TREASURY SHOULD COIN SILVER BULLION AT A PROFIT TO DELAY THE APPROACH OF THE LIMIT TO THE NATIONAL DEBT.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Norway — Narvik.

SECRET

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

~~Narvik. Prime minister would be glad to have further information about your operations.~~
~~(DOC, 0733/15 to T.O. Narvik)~~

PROTECTOR — Arty 2013/10. Essential that PROTECTOR should sail immediately. (DOD(H) /15)

Supplies — C-in-C Atf.'s 1010/12. Admty will assume responsibility for provision of oilers, colliers, ammunition carriers, naval and victualling store ships for Narvik area. (D of P 1325/15)

Operation Bishop. — Personnel to arrive Glasgow for embarkation in MANELA pm. 17/5. (RANAS, 1702/15) Cash for MANELA (DNAD 1925/15)

ACRITY. — To sail for Harstad, escorted by 2 A/S trawlers detailed by ACOS. (DOD.(H) 1739/15)

TRIANT — S/M TRIANT to sail for Harstad 0930/16. (S.2, 1732/15)

Destroyers. — Capt (D) 9 has assumed duty of SO Destroyers in Narvik area. (D.9, 1523/15)

A/A Ship. — Request COVENTRY will provide A/A protection as unobtrusively as possible to puffer embarking troops at Ankenes for passage to Harstad tonight. (T.O. Narvik, to CS 20, 1817/15)

PARIS THAT THERE ARE NO GAPS IN THEIR ENTENTE?" --REUTER.

S-2

B

10.40 LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE : PROMISING OPENING. FEB 26

MARKETS HAVE OPENED THIS MORNING IN PROMISING FASHION.

AN ALL ROUND IMPROVEMENT IS RECORDED IN KAFFIRS, LARGELY OWING TO BUYING FROM THE CAPE. IN THE GILT EDGED MARKET THERE IS SOME DEMAND FOR THE LONG-DATED ISSUES. INDUSTRIALS ARE FIRM AT FRIDAY'S CL SING LEVELS.

HOME RAILS DISPLAY A HARDENING TENDENCY. TRANSPORT "C" IS QUOTED AT 49 EX-DIVIDEND, L.M.S. ORDINARY AT 21-5/8 X D, L.M.S. FIRST PREF AT 66-3/4 XD AND L M S 1923 PREF AT 56 XD.

B-2 --REUTER

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Belgian Coast.

Ostend Evacuees.

BNLO Ostend report 1300/15, two mail steamers will leave Ostend at 1900 today with 500 British refugees. As mines may be encountered consider some form of escort desirable. (DSO., 1615/15 to C-in-C Nore)

Zeebrugge

Extra LL trawlers are not being sent now. Four LL trawlers will be kept available at Harwich to relieve your present ones if this is necessary. If position at Zeebrugge becomes untenable retire a Dover. (DMS., 1807/15 to Comdr. Peterson, Zeebrugge).

Six Belgian steamers capacity 700 to 800 passengers now in Ostend, sailed not degaussed. 1200 British refugees await transport. (GHQ. to War Office 0023/15)

STATEMENT THAT IT IS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE.

THE SPEECH MADE BY M. SARAJOGLU AT THE RECENT BALKAN CONFERENCE HAD A REASSURING EFFECT ON NAZI OPINION BUT NOW ALL KINDS OF RUMOURS ARE CURRENT REGARDING TURKEY'S "WARLIKE DESIGNS".

THE GENERAL EFFECT OF THE RUMOURS IS THAT TURKEY AND THE ALLIES ARE PREPARING AN OFFENSIVE AGAINST RUSSIA.

MANY NAZI OBSERVERS THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THE IMPENDING ARRIVAL IN UROPE OF MR. SUMNER WELLES WILL MILITATE AGAINST THE LAUNCHING OF SUCH AN OFFENSIVE.

SATISFACTION IS FELT AT THE FACT THAT HE WILL FIRST VISIT THE OTHER THREE EUROPEAN CAPITALS BEFORE ARRIVING IN BERLIN.

CH-1 REUTER

12.18 FINNS DENY CAPTURE OF KOIVISTO

HELSINKI, FEB 21.: THE RUSSIAN CLAIM TO HAVE CAPTURED KOIVISTO, THE FINNISH FORTRESS WHICH GUARDS THE APEX OF THE RIGHT FLANK OF THE MANNERHEIM LINE DEFENCES, IS TODAY OFFICIALLY DENIED BY THE

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Dutch ~~Coast — Holden~~ Warships.

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

O.23	Dutch submarine O.23 near South Tail Buoy in Q25 60 course 270°. (VENOMOUS, 0340/15). Passed Dungeness westwards at 1215 unescorted. (V.a., Dover, 1229/15)
BRINIO	Dutch armoured gunboat BRINIO expects to arrive Shipwash 1330/15. To be met and escorted into Harwich. (C in C Nore, 0434/15) (NOIC Harwich 0831/15)
	Dutch warships with 3 submarines passed through the Downs for Portsmouth at 0545 speed about 9 knots. (NOIC Ramsgate, 0630/15)
MEDUSA	Dutch minelayer accompanied by 2 others in position 023° VXWY 22 steering 270°. (VENOMOUS, 0900/15)
TB. 2.6	Arrived Sheerness ~~0845/15~~ 1456/15 (C in C Nore, 1017/15, 1649/15) To coal.
SUMATRA	Cruiser, to be sailed for Shetland as soon as degaussed. (DOD(H) 1715/15)
TB 2.8 and DEMOK	Torpedo boat 2.8 and gunboat DEMOK in position West Hinder L.V. speed 12 knots. (VENOMOUS, 1301/15)

14.08. SWEDISH VILLAGE BOMBED

.....STOCKHOLM, FEB 21.....RUSSIAN AEROPLANES TODAY BOMBED THE SWEDISH VILLAGE OF PAJALA, FIVE MILES ACROSS THE BORDER FROM FINLAND.

FOUR BUILDINGS WERE BURNED DOWN AND A CHURCH WAS SLIGHTLY DAMAGED. REUTER

CH-1

14.10. SWEDISH VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

.....STOCKHOLM, FEB 21.....THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT TODAY GAVE THE PRIME MINISTER AN EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN HIS FOREIGN POLICY.

CH-1 REUTER

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Dutch ~~Warships~~ Navy.

SECRET

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Chief of Staff.

Admiral Furster, Dutch Chief of Naval Staff, is now at Dunkerque with some 10 officers of Dutch Navy. Admiral Nord intends sending them ~~Admiral and his staff~~ to Dover in Dutch destroyer tomorrow morning. ~~(BM Report arrangements for onward journey to London.~~ (BNLO Dunkerque, 1135/15)

CH-1

14.01.

...3...SUCCESS OF CONVOY SYSTEM (13.42)...

THE MINISTER RECALLED THE PRINCIPLE ESTABLISHED IN THE LONDON AGREEMENT OF 1936 REGARDING SUBMARINE WARFARE AND SAID THAT IN CONTRADICTION TO THESE PRINCIPLE SHIPS HAD BEEN TORPEDOED ALTHOUGH THEY HAD NOT REFUSED TO STOP OR TO UNDERGO EXAMINATION.

HE RECALLED THAT THE MARITIME WARFARE WAS CHARACTERISED BY CONTRABAND CONTROL BY THE WESTERN POWERS WHEREBY SWEDISH SHIPS WERE FORCED TO ENTER VERY DANGEROUS ZONES, BY EXTENSIVE LISTS OF CONTRABAND AND BY INTENSIVE MINE AND SUBMARINE WARFARE. REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Dutch Coast - ~~Rotterdam~~

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Operations Lyster - DF - EF.

Orders for Operation DF and EF are being sent to you now. Should the 6th M/S Flotilla be instructed to take part in these operations they are to be issued with these orders before sailing. (D.D.(H) 1927/15 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

Your 1539/15 ordering ships to come to immediate notice tomorrow, will be carried out. (FLORENTINO, 1741/15 to Admty.)

Come to immediate notice by 0800 tomorrow, Thursday. (Com. Samson-Williams, to FLORENTINO, TRANSEAS, PACIFICO, BORODINO, ATLANTIC GUIDE, 1539/15)

CONFIDENTIAL. MESSAGE. 2301/15th May. IN.

FROM V.A. Dover. DATE 15.5.40.

RECD. 2351.

P/L BY T/P.

~~ADDRESSED C. in C. Nore. Admiral Nord Repeated Admiralty.~~
Dutch Coast - General.

WEGA ~~2355~~ Consul General Amsterdam landed at Ramsgate today Wednesday reports that important confidential documents are in Dutch ship WEGA which has not arrived in Downs.

(V.A. Dover, 2301/15.)

1st Lord.
~~1st~~ S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.
P.A.S.(S)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.N.I.(4)
O.I.C.(2)
D.S.D.O.
Ops.(4)
D.E.W.D.(3)

18.42. BELGIAN SITUATION "CONTINUES TO IMPROVE"

SEMI-OFFICIAL STATEMENT

.....B R U S S E L S , MAY 14.....THE SITUATION CONTINUES TO IMPROVE, SAYS THE SEMI-OFFICIAL BELGIAN NEWS AGENCY.

THERE IS NO QUESTION, IT ADDS, OF ALLIED EMBASSIES LEAVING THE CAPITAL. --REUTER

CH-1

18.43.

...4...PIERLOT:

SECRET

15-5-1940
WAR.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Dutch Coast - General.

Walcheren
To Be
Defended.

Reference previous telegram and telephone conversation today, Captain Cazalet and Captain Angerford (corrupt group). General Winkelman has given orders to Admiral and Van Der Stad to continue resistance in Zeeland. At Conference at Middelburg between 0015 hours and 0030 hours Admiral Van Der Stad, Admiral Platon, General Durand present, it was decided to defend Islandsof Walcheren and Beveland at all costs. General Deslaurens continuing to land his troops in South Beveland.

2 Germans are in touch with Dutch positions East of Rilland. No contact made so far with Germans in Tholen Area. From Balfour, Second Lieutenant, 0300/15. ~~15th May~~ ends. (Balfour - Heywood mission, Middleburg, via HMS. VALENTINE, 0830/15)

"BETWEEN THE RHINE AND THE MOSELLE THERE WAS SLIGHT ARTILLERY HARASSING FIRE AT SOME PARTS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE PREVIOUS DAY.

"THERE WAS ALSO RECONNAISSANCE ACTIVITY AT CERTAIN POINTS, OCCASIONED ON THE GERMAN SIDE MAINLY BY THE EAGERNESS OF OUR TROOPS TO SET EYES ON AN ENGLISHMAN.

"ALL EFFORTS OF THE GERMAN RECONNAISSANCE TROOPS PROVED IN VAIN. WHEREVER THEY ADVANCED, THEY FOUND ONLY FRENCH UNITS."

B-2 --REUTER

12.22 THE 'ROSTOCK' - APPARENTLY CAPTURED LAST WEDNESDAY

PARIS, FEB 19: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE GERMAN FREIGHTER 'ROSTOCK' (2,542-TONS) WHICH MADE A DASH FROM VIGO IN AN ATTEMPT TO RUN THE ALLIED BLOCKADE WAS CAPTURED BY THE FRENCH NAVY LAST WEDNESDAY.

IN OFFICIAL QUARTERS HERE IT IS RECALLED THAT NAMES OF CAPTURED MERCHANTMEN ARE NEVER GIVEN.

AT THE SAME TIME IT IS POINTED OUT THAT THE FRENCH WAR COMMUNIQUE ISSUED LAST WEDNESDAY EVENING ANNOUNCED THAT "A GERMAN CARGO BOAT HAS BEEN CAPTURED AND TAKEN INTO A FRENCH PORT."

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Dutch Coast - General.

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Walcheren Situation.

Admiral Nord informs me Germans making heavy attack on Walcheren and Beveland Islands. Situation there critical. VALENTINE reported wrecked. Am sending WOLSEY and WESTMINSTER. VIMIERA will follow when ammunitioned. (C.A. Dover, 1504/15) (situation becomes clearer. (O.O.D. (H, 0002/15)

Brown Ridge Rendezvous.

On completion tonight's operation, 2 destroyers to be maintained vicinity of Brown Ridge until the JAGUAR and GRAFTON to proceed 0800 today to carry out A/S patrol south of Brown Ridge. (C-in-C Nore, 0302/15) Fully authorized to withdraw at high speed if air attack becomes unpleasant. (C-in-C Nore 0846/15)

Zeeland

Morale Dutch troops in Zeeland broken. Unlikely they will offer further effective resistance. Canal are holding south Beveland Canal. Germans probably now advancing towards Kruiningen. (Balfour Hegwood Mission, Middelburg, via Hqrs. WHITLEY 1340/15)

If high authorities wish to hold these islands to guard left flank then one battalion from north and any other reinforcement very desirable. But if this position only a hold, one more now would only embarrass future difficult rearguard action. General Durand agrees. Kruiningen situation clear and enemy pressure not increasing. A/A batteries are invaluable to relieve destroyers. (Balfour, to War Office, 1900/15)

TERRITORY OF OUR OFFICERS BY AGENTS OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT".

S-2 --REUTER.

015.33 HOUSE OF COMMONS FEB 21.

...MALAYAN TIN...

ASKED IF IN VIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE INTER-NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR TIN CONTROL, HE WOULD SEE THAT NO REDUCTION OR ALTERATION OF THE QUOTA WAS MADE UNLESS HE WAS SATISFIED THAT IT WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE MAXIMUM USE OF MALAYAN TIN RESOURCES IN THE PROSECUTION OF THE WAR, MR MALCOLM MACDONALD REPLIED: "THE QUOTA DECISION RESTS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL TIN COMMITTEE BUT I FEEL SURE THAT TH MALAYAN AND NIGERIAN DELEGATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE INTERESTS OF THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH THEY REPRESENT IN THE COMMITTEE INCLUDING THEIR INTEREST IN THE EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION OF THE WAR." --REUTER

M-1

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS. 15.5.1940
~~Shipping~~ Wednesday.
Operations

Dutch Coast - Hook of Holland - Helder.

~~H.M.S.~~ CODRINGTON and ~~H.M.S.~~ GRIFFIN in company with British ships ~~SDSS~~ MAID OF ORLEANS, ~~GWSC~~ MONAS QUEEN returning to U.K. ~~H.M.S.~~ VIVACIOUS reports submarines and torpedoes have left Helder and she is proceeding to patrol Brown Ridge. ~~H.M.S.~~ HEREWARD and ~~H.M.S.~~ VENETIA have reinforced ~~H.M.S.~~ HAVOCK.

(Capt D.1, 0228/15. to C.in.C Nore)

Dutch Coast - ~~Shipping Stoppage~~ General.

The Dutch wireless broadcast that the Burgomaster of Rotterdam makes known on instructions of the German Command that no ship of whatever nationality may leave Rotterdam or the Nieuwe Watterweg. Any ship attempting to leave will be stopped by force. (2253/15, Press)

14.12 DEMAND FOR ALTMARK ENQUIRY.

OSLO, FEB 21: "THE DISPUTE OUGHT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO GO BEFORE AN INTERNATIONAL COURT OF LAW", DECLARES THE NEWSPAPER "AFTENPOSTEN", COMMENTING ON THE ALTMARK INCIDENT.

"WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT BRITAIN WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT TH FINDINGS OF SUCH A COURT.

MR CHAMBERLAIN'S STATEMENT SHOWS, SAYS THE PAPER, THAT THE BRITISH AND NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENTS VERY SERIOUSLY DISAGREE AS TO THE DEMANDS WHICH INTERNATIONAL LAW MAKES ON NEUTRALS WITH REGARD TO THE TREATMENT OF WARSHIPS OF BELLIGERENT POWERS WHEN THEY ENTER NEUTRAL WATERS. --REUTER.

S-2

14.13 GERMANS CLAIM ATTACK IN MORAY FIRTH.

BERLIN, FEB 21: A CLAIM THAT "A BRITISH CONVOY OF WAR VESSELS WAS ATTACKED IN THE MORAY FIRTH" IS MADE IN A COMMENTARY ON THE HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED BY THE GERMAN OFFICIAL NEWS AG MGCY.

S-2 --REUTER.

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Dutch Coast - Hook of Holland - Helder.

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Evacuation

key 1703/14. Ships must be clear of Dutch coast by dawn evacuation being abandoned if necessary to comply with this. (NOIC. Dover, 0039/15 to D.19) (DC, 0057/15 to Ch C Nore)
Your 2204/14 If there are no Dutch troops to be evacuated or those there do not wish to be evacuated, abandon operation. (Va, Dover, 0009/15 to D. 19).
Evacuation of Dutch forces will not now take place. Special air escort by fighter aircraft not now required. (DC, 0131/15, to Air Ministry).
Evacuation of Dutch troops and lighters cancelled. Withdraw to Brown Ridge. (Ch C Nore to D. 1, 0120/15).
Your 2251/14, evacuation of K.L.M. aircraft at Amsterdam, could not be complied with as it was not received until after KEITH had left Hook. (D.19 1034/15 to Admty).

Magnetic mine

(see Mining)

Demolition Successful.

C.O. HAVOCK reports that he brought back part of naval and military demolition parties from Ymuiden, including Lieut. Hermans and Captain Keeble R.E. and Captain Davis, having been heavily machine-gunned by Heinkels in the Harbour. Arrived in an exhausted condition were not cross questioned but said that all demolitions went according to plan except for mining of Dutch men of war to act as block ship, substitute was provided and all channels are believed to be blocked. Captain Davis told C.O. HAVOCK that he had seen Commander Goodenough about 2130/14 and he appeared satisfied that all demolitions were nearly complete.

(FO, Harwich, 1315/15)

FOR THEY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED IN LARGE NUMBERS.

COMPLETE FAILURE HAS ATTENDED THEIR EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN THEM FOR THE FIRST DAY OF OPERATIONS.

CH-1 --REUTER

17.43 HUNGARO-GERMAN COMMUNICATIONS RESUMED.

BUDAPEST, MAY 11: TELEPHONIC AND TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN HUNGARY AND GERMANY, WHICH WERE INTERRUPTED ON THE GERMAN SIDE YESTERDAY FROM MIDNIGHT TO 09.00 HAVE BEEN REESTABLISHED AND ARE WORKING NORMALLY. --REUTER.

S-2

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS

15-5-40
Wednesday

Operations.

Dutch Coast - Hook of Holland -

Helder Surrendered.

Do not come Helder. Part 2 follows. (VIVACIOUS to Capt D-1, 0127/15).

I was met by a gunboat outside and 3 Naval Officers in a tug. They state Helder has surrendered and all lights have been put on in town in order that Germans can march in, the few remaining soldiers have surrendered. Naval Officers state submarine(s) and torpedo (?boats) have left. Entrance to harbour has been mined and am returning to Brown Ridge rendezvous. (VIVACIOUS to Capt D.1, 0128/15.)

Ymuiden.

HAVOCK's 2339/14. Join HAVOCK off Ymuiden and evacuate as many Dutch as possible. Essential all ships are clear of coast before dawn. Further evacuation cancelled. (C in C Nore 0136/15 to D-1) Cancel my 0136. (C in C Nore 0153/15) Close HAVOCK and evacuate any Dutch coming off in boats. Essential all ships are clear of coast before dawn. (C in C Nore 0158/15 to D.1)

T20.33 FRENCH WAR COMMUNIQUE.

PARIS, FEB 19: TONIGHT'S FRENCH WAR COMMUNIQUE STATES:

"TO THE WEST OF THE SAAR A GERMAN DETACHMENT TRIED TO APPROACH ONE OF OUR POSTS AND WAS DRIVEN BACK WITH LOSSES. RESUMED FIRING FROM THE CASEMATES ON THE BANKS OF THE RHINE. --REUTER.

S-2

20.35 FLOUR EXPORT SUBSIDY RATES.

NEW YORK, FEB 19: THE AGRICULTUREAL DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED AN INCREASE OF 15 CENTS TO 1.15 DOLLARS A BARREL IN TH SUBSIDY RATE ON FLOUR EXPORTS AS FROM MARCH 6.

THIS ORDER IS OFFSET BY HIGHER PACIFIC COAST FREIGHT RATES. THE 1.25 DOLLAR PER BARREL RATE TO CHINA INCLUDING HONG KONG REMAINS UNCHANGED. --REUTER.

S-2

HOME COMMANDS.
Movements.

SECRET

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Submarines

~~1035~~ (1) Having come to the conclusion that immediate action should be taken to transfer 3rd and 10th Flotillas from Harwich in view of threat of enemy Air action intend to take action as follows forthwith:—

(A) Transfer CYCLOPS and 3rd S/M Flotilla to Rosyth.
(B) Transfer JULES VERNE and 10th S/M Flotilla to Dundee
(C) Transfer CLYDE and SEVERN from Dundee to 6th S/M Flotilla at Blyth.

(2) It is now intended to operate Dutch submarines from Portsmouth in the Southern Area of the North Sea.

(3) From the point of view of dispersion it may be desirable later to transfer some submarines from Blyth Rosyth and/or Portsmouth to Invergordon. With this possibility in view and as one or more existing depot ships may be put out of action I would now like MAIDSTONE kept available in United Kingdom, though for the time being she could be used as a fleet repair ship.

(V.A.S., 1831/15)

TURNOVER..630,000 SHARES.

DOW JONES: RAIL..30.90 INDUSTRIAL..148.46 UTILITY..24.97

S-2 --REUTER.

EE

O REUTERS TICKER NOW CLOSING DOWN

GOOD NIGHT EVERYBODY

HOME COMMANDS.
British Precautions.

SECRET

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Guards for Shipping

~~27~~. In view of experience in Holland and Norway that German troops or stores arrive and remain concealed in Merchant ships arriving in ports it is necessary to place guards on board pending examination by customs and security police. Latter are few in number and military owing to other commitments cannot be spared for this duty. Civil police which have been largely augmented since commencement of war would appear to be available for this duty. Suggest that Home Office be approached as soon as possible with a view to adopting this proceedure in East Coast ports. It is realised that this involves the policy of using civil forces on duties that might be described as military but in view of the present and possible future situation it is considered that this should be faced now. The police force number thousands of able bodied men. (C in C Nore, to admty.,
1412/15.)

19.14 WALL STREET STEADY.

NEW YORK, FEB 19: WITH QUIET SUPPORT APPEARING FRACTIONAL CHANGES ARE ABOUT EVENLY DIVIDED.

SOME CONSTRUE THE BRITISH SEQUESTRATION OF AMERICAN SECURITIES AS THE FORERUNNER OF IMPORTANT SPENDING HERE, WHILE OTHERS EXPECT ADVANTAGE TO BE TAKEN ON ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR PROFITABLE MARKETING OF THE SECURITIES.

STEELS ARE UNDER PRESSURE. THE PUBLICATION 'STEEL' SAYS THAT ORDERS CONTINUE TO TEND DOWNWARDS. MOTORS ARE STEADIER, WHILE NEW YORK TRACTION ISSUES ARE AGAIN BUOYANT.

COPPERS ARE SUPPORTED ON THE BELIEF THAT THIS GROUP WILL READILY RESPOND TO CONSTRUCTIVE NEWS. CHEMICALS ARE SUSTAINED BY THE FAVOURABLE DU PONT DIVIDEND, WITH AIRCRAFTS, RAILS AND UTILITIES CONTINUE TO MOVE WITHIN NARROW LIMITS.

THERE IS NOW LESS TALK OF A BUSINESS RECESSION WITH MANY NOW EXPECTING A STIMULUS FROM WAR ORDERS. --REUTER.

S-1

K19.36 GREEK STEAMER TORPEDOED.

SECRET

SITUATION REPORT.

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Miscellaneous.

~~Italy~~. Italian ~~situation~~ preparations. Naval and military activity has been observed at Naples, ~~Ancona~~ and it is reported that Italian Naval Officers and ratings on leave have been ~~ordered~~ recalled and that Naval Reservists have been called up. Certain sailings of Italian merchant ships have been suspended, other ships have been ordered to accelerate their voyages.

~~Portugal~~

~~5 AMC's have sailed for the Gibraltar area~~.

Mining. Our a/c's laid 17 mines last night.

Casualties. DORIS (French s/m) which has been operating in the Texel area is overdue at Harwich from 12/5.
BOREAS and BRILLIANT were in collision in the Thames Estuary and have proceeded to Sheerness.
SOMALI, HUSSAR, WINCHESTER, VERSATILE and VIVERN were damaged by air attack, and VALENTINE was extensively damaged and beached.

18.12 SCRAP COPPER PRICE ADVANCED.

NEW YORK, FEB 19: THE REFINERY BUYING PRICE FOR SCRAP COPPER WAS ADVANCED BY A QUARTER OF A CENT TO THE EQUIVALENT OF ROUGHTLY 11-1/2 CENTS PER POUND ON A REFINED BASIS.

S-2 --REUTER.

REUTERS TESTING RYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRY
RYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRY

18.52 ADD 17.07 - FINNISH COMMUNIQUE.

SITUATION REPORT.

SECRET

15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Norway.

CHROBRY (Polish Transport 11,442 tons) on passage from Tjelsunder (South of Narvik) to Bodo with Irish guards was bombed by 4 a/c's at midnight 14/15 May and set on fire. The escorting destroyers took off 1000 survivors and landed them at Harstad. CHROBRY has been abandoned.

SOMALI, who went to her assistance, was also bombed by 6 a/c's and damaged, her fore-part being flooded. She is proceeding to Scapa at reduced speed, escorted by FOUDROYANT and CURLEW, the latter being on passage to the Mediterranean.

GLORIOUS and FURIOUS sailed last night with a/c's for landing. Low Cloud likely to operate their shore based a/c's 19/5.

CLYDE, which has been operating in the Ausalsnes area, left for Dundee today. FOUDROYANT is operating at Mo.

3 A/S trawlers are due at Tromsoe today to protect DEVONSHIRE. ~~who is keeping a watch in~~ A special watch is being kept for fast German trawlers suitable for troops carrying, which may be ~~took~~ ostensibly engaged in fishing.

Iceland.

Check 3,800 troops are on passage to Iceland.

"AIR: THE FINNISH AIR CORCE YESTERDAY SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT SEVERAL RECONNAISSANCE AND BOMBING FLIGHTS OVER AND BEHIND THE ENEMY'S LINES. NUMEROUS AIR BATTLES ENDED SUCCESSFULLY FOR THE FINNISH MACHINES.

"IN THE WAR ZONE ENEMY AIRCRAFT WERE PARTICULARLY ACTIVE BOTH DURING THE DAY AND NIGHT. THE TOWNS OF KAEKISALMI, LAPPEENRANTA AND VIIPURI WERE BOMBED. VIIPURI WAS ATTACKED BY SUCCESSIVE FORMATIONS OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

"IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY THE ENEMY BOMBED KOTKA AND KOUVOLA AND THE DISTRICTS OF SALMI AND PORI.

"ACCORDING TO REPORTS SO FAR RECEIVED, A NUMBER OF CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED AND SEVERAL HOUSES DESTROYED.

"THE NUMBER OF AEROPLANES WHICH FLEW OVER FINLAND DURING THE DAY IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE HIGHEST ON RECORD.

"IT IS CONFIRMED THAT 20 RUSSIAN PLANES WERE BROUGHT DOWN, AND IN ADDITION FOUR OTHERS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT DOWN.

"DURING ONE RAID SOVIET AIRMEN TRIED TO MACHINE-GUN CIVILIANS.

"AN AIR RAID ALARM WAS SOUNDED IN HELSINKI AT 2.30 THIS AFTERNOON, BUT NO MACHINE WAS SIGHTED". -REUTER.

SECRET

SITUATION REPORT. 15.5.1940
Wednesday.

Low Countries.

Evacuation of Dutch troops cancelled

Preparations were made to evacuate the Dutch troops during the night 14/15, and all available warships and certain merchant ships ~~were~~ stood by to carry out the operation. Owing to the capitulation of the Dutch the evacuation was cancelled shortly after midnight 14/5 and the ships left the coast before dawn 15/5. ~~At Walcheren Island the Dutch troops are continuing to fight under the Dutch.~~

Demolitions. The Naval demolitions at Amsterdam and Ymuiden were successfully carried out and the ~~parties~~ demolition parties have returned. All 3 locks at Ymuiden are destroyed and ~~the~~ all channel are believed to be blocked. The Northern breakwater at the Hook has been blown up. Some of the party are still unaccounted for. At Rotterdam the objectives were largely achieved.

casualties. With the exception of one at Flushing all our destroyers have left the coast of Holland. WINCHESTER was damaged this morning by a near miss. VALENTINE was hit by 2 bombs off Walcheren Island and had to be beached at Terneuzen, near Flushing. WIVERN was damaged off the Hook 14/5. HUSSAR (minesweeper) was towed and hit off Broom Ridge, but reached port safely.

5 magnetic mines have been exploded off the Dutch coast; the sweepers were continually attacked by aircraft.

PRICES DURING AFTER HOURS DEALINGS IN TIN SHOWED
COMPARATIVELY LITTLE CHANGE COMPARED WITH THE OFFICIAL CLOSE.
THREE MONTHS WAS DONE AT £251 WITH FURTHER BUYERS AT THIS
FUGURE. TURNOVER AMOUNTED TO 100 TONS. --REUTER
B-2

13.33 NORWAY SITUATION IMPROVING

PARIS, APR 29: AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION IN FAVOUR OF THE ALLIES IS NOW TO BE EXPECTED AT CERTAIN POINTS IN NORWAY, ACCORDING TO MILITARY CIRCLES HERE.

SPORADIC FIGHTING, INCLUDING CLASHES BETWEEN RIVAL PATROLS, GIVING PLACE TO INCIDENTS OF A LOCAL CHARACTER ONLY, IS STILL A FEATURE OF THE CAMPAIGN, BUT THE SITUATION IS BECOMING CLEARER.

AROUND NARVIK THE SITUATION IS UNCHANGED. NOR HAS THERE BEEN

War Diary

SECRET

15. 5. 40.

SITUATION REPORT

Wednesday

Home

In view of possible air raids on Harwich (the 3rd and 10th submarine flotillas are to be transferred to Rosyth. The Dutch submarines will operate from Portsmouth.

"SO FAR AS I AM CONCERNED - AND I AM SURE THAT MOST OF OUR STOCK-HOLDERS ARE IN THE SAME POSITION - THE 'ROCKET' HAS ATTAINED LESS THAN HALF THE HEIGHT AT WHICH I PURCHASED MY GREAT WESTERN ORDINARY STOCK".

CH-1 REUTER

11.55 NAZIS TO SELL SWEDISH ARMS BACK TO SWEDEN.

--/ .32 694C 043'' 430945.

NEW YORK, FEB 28: ALL THE SWEDISH TYPES OF ARMAMENTS CAPTURED BY GERMANY IN POLAND WILL BE SOLD TO SWEDEN BY THE NAZIS, ACCORDING TO REPORTS IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES, SAYS THE 'NEW YORK TIMES' IN A WASHINGTON DISPATCH.

GERMANY HAS ALSO AGREED TO DELIVER ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS MANUFACTURED IN POLAND UNDER SWEDISH PATENTS. OWING TO THE DELICATE DIPLOMATIC SITUATION IN SCAND[illegible]IA IT IS THOUGHT THAT

SECRET

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING. 14.5.1940
Tuesday.

S/M's Reported.

Q

0600 48°37'N 6°50'W by a/c Reliable. VANQUISHER, SALADIN attack (CiCWA 0826/14, 1831/14, 0901/14)

0645 S.T. LEYS saw U-boat surfacing 56°26'N 2°38'W B2/IC. 0451/40)

2248 54°20'N 7°10'E. Indefinite position (IC. 0451/40)

Estimated dispositions.

One in Western Approaches now in Clyde area (DDIC 1238/14)

Fact

11.50. G.W.R. MEETING FEB 28.

LORD HORNE, CHAIRMAN OF THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY SAID AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AT PADDINGTON TODAY THAT IT STOOD TO THE CREDIT OF THE BRITISH RAILWAYS THAT THEY COMPARED IN EFFICIENCY WITH ANY OTHER RAILWAYS IN THE WORLD AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN MAINTAINED IN PEACE-TIME IN A CONDITION RENDERING THEM ADEQUATE TO THE NEEDS OF THE NATION IN WAR.

REGARDING THE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT FOR COMPENSATION HE SAID THAT THE COMPANIES RECOGNISED THAT DURING A PERIOD OF WAR RESTRICTIONS AND OBLIGATIONS WHICH IN NORMAL CONDITIONS THEY WOULD STRONGLY RESIST MIGHT HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

THEY FELT BOUND TO RECORD, HOWEVER, THEIR CONSIDERED VIEW THAT THEIR OWN PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE PROVIDED A SIMPLE, SOUND AND EQUITABLE BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT, AND WOULD HAVE OBVIATED MANY DIFFICULTIES.

"HOW WILL THIS AGREEMENT WORK OUT IN PRACTICE?", HE ASKED. "IT HAS BEEN SAID IN SOME QUARTERS THAT IT IS SO UNDULY FAVOURABLE TO THE RAILWAY COMPANIES THAT IT HAS SENT THE PRICE OF RAILWAY STOCKS 'ROCKETING TO UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS'.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING. 14.5.1940
Tuesday.

SECRET

Ships Attacked.

~~HALMA~~ ~~50°43'N 0°27'E was in bike believed gone. Abandoning~~
~~Ship 2321~~

GORM Danish (2156 tons) reported to have been mined and sunk 1 mile from South Hoke Light, Zeebrugge (Lloyds) 1.3 mile 020° from Zeebrugge Mole
(IC.0451/40)

SWEDISH HELP FOR FINLAND : NEWSPAPER'S COMMENT

OLM, FEB 26: "WITHOUT THE MATERIAL AND HUMANITARIAN
XTENDED BY SWEDEN BOTH THE WAR AND HOME FRONT IN FINLAND WOULD
IVEN WAY LONG AGO", DECLARES THE 'DAGENS NYHETER' THIS
G.
DESPITE THE ECONOMY IN SOLDIERS ENSURED BY MANNERHEIM TACTICS
D IS IN GREAT NEED OF REINFORCEMENTS IN MEN", THE NEWSPAPER

IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE NEW METHODS FOR ENROLLING
EERS IN SWEDEN WILL GIVE THE NECESSARY RESULT."
--REUTER

SWEDEN AND COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE

OLM, FEB 26: DR GUENTHER, THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER,
SED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULT OF THE COPENHAGEN MEETING
INTERVIEW GIVEN TO A STOCKHOLM NEWSPAPER.
HE BOMBING OF PAJALA BY RUSSIA WAS NOT DISCUSSED, HE SAID,
E IT WAS A PURELY SWEDISH MATTER. HIS PERSONAL OPINION WAS
HE BOMBING WAS A PURE MISTAKE.
O FURTHER MEETING OF SCANDINAVIAN MINISTERS HAS BEEN ARRANGED.

SECRET

14-5-40
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

Your 1254/12 to 5th Sea Lord. Admty. 1333/11, re use of reserve Walrus at Bermuda, indicates the correct policy to be pursued. Until this can be implemented you must be the sole judge of the best use for I. R. aircraft on your station. Walrus crews are not immediately available. (5th Sea Lord to C in C A & W I 1155/14)

FOREIGN STATIONS
America & West Indies

14.5.40
Tuesday

~~1353/14th May~~

~~SECRET~~ ~~M E S S A G E~~ ~~IN~~

~~FROM:- C. in C. America and West Indies~~ ~~DATE:- 15.4.40~~

~~RECD:- 0205~~

~~NAVAL CYPHER A BY W/T~~

~~ADDRESSED:- Admiralty H.M.S. CARADOC repeated N.O. i/c Kingston Jamaica~~

~~747. H.M.S.~~ CARADOC 1300/13~~th May.~~ Parts 2 and 3. Consider risk of air attacks insufficient to justify ~~the~~ special supply of fighters in view of ~~the~~ situation at home. Have asked Ministers of Venezuela and Colombia for their views on the possibility of air raids by German pilots. Governor Jamaica has agreed to accept 200 German prisoners in one month's time. Intended to meet Dutch requirements for patrol of Dutch islands as far as possible. Do not intend to lock up any forces permanently.

Part. 4. Approved except as regards ~~H.M.S.~~ DESPATCH vide my 1250/13~~th May.~~

(C. CAWI 1353/14 ~~7 to Hist Sec~~)

~~Advance copy sent Ops. U.W.R. O.I.C.~~

America & West Indies.

An unconfirmed report states that an unidentified destroyer on Sunday night stopped a tanker three miles off the Panama Pacific coast, 70 miles from the capital. The destroyer either searched or refuelled from the tanker, beginning at 5 p.m. and continuing until it was dark. An American Army 'plane is reported to have investigated the incident, but at present no official statement is available. (Press)

From S.N.O. Persian Gulf. ~~Date~~ 14.5.40.
Tuesday
~~Recd.~~ 1829

Inter Departmental Cypher (4) by Cable.

Addressed N.O.I.C. Basrah. Repeated A.O.C.British Forces, Iraq. C. in C. East Indies, Admiralty, Embassy Bagdad.

FOREIGN STATIONS
East Indies.

~~IMPORTANT~~

Precautions against Italy.

Following received from Admiralty begins:
Information has been received that in the event of War Italian subjects have been instructed to commit acts of sabotage on an extensive scale.
British authorities at Abadan are aware of the situation but in viewing as preventing blocking operations in Riyadh and in Rooka Channel by Italian ships, it has been decided that one sloop should for the present be stationed in the vicinity of Shatt-el-Arab.
Italian tankers PROMETEO and ANTONIA, CAMPANILLE are due at Abadan May 15th but should not be interfered with under the prevailing circumstances. Ends.
Paragraph 2.Have instructed H.M.I.S.INDUS now at entrance to Shatt-El-Arab to reinforce floating defences Inner Zone. ~~Request you will arrange to issue appropriate orders amongst the local authorities as necessary.~~

SNO Persian Gulf 1015 Z/14 to NOIC Basra.)

DIPLOMATIC DENIALS MAY BE MADE, BUT THE REPORTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE DERIVED FROM DETAILED INFORMATION.

AS TO THE REASON WHY GERMANY SHOULD SHIP ARMS WHICH MIGHT BE USED AGAINST HER ALLY RUSSIA, THE NEWSPAPER CONTINUES, IT IS THOUGHT THAT DIPLOMATIC QUARTERS IN GERMANY MAY BE ANXIOUS TO PREVENT THE SOVIET FROM ADVANCING FURTHER WEST.

IT IS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE DEAL MAY BE FOR PURELY ECONOMIC REASONS IF GERMANY IS HARD-PRESSED FOR CASH. OR, CONCLUDES THE DISPATCH, SWEDEN MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WRING CONCESSIONS FROM GERMANY FOR A REFUSAL TO YIELD TO ALLIED PRESSURE TO DROP HER NEUTRAL POSITION. -3REUTER

B-2

11.58 LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE FEB 28

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SECRET

%@.£.½(@?
[illegible]
14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Mediterranean.

SALZBURG (1756 tons) left Bandirma 11/5 (IC.0451/40)

NORBURG (2392 tons) left Batum 11/5. (IC.0451/40)

12.47 "CONTRABAND" DEMONSTRATION IN ROME

ROME, MAY 14.: SEVERAL THOUSAND STUDENTS PROTESTING ABOUT THE FRANCO-BRITISH CONTRABAND CONTROL MARCHED TO THE PIAZZA VENEZIA TODAY AND SHOUTED OUT FOR THE DUCE, SAYS THE STEFANI AGENCY.

THE DUCE APPEARED ON THE BALCONY IN RESPONSE TO THEIR SHOUTS.

M-2 --REUTER

12.53 4TH ADD - BATTLE OF THE MEUSE BEGINS.

FURTHER EAST THE GERMANS WERE HELD BACK THROUGHOUT YESTERDAY AT LONGWY, DESPITE HEAVY ATTACKS SUPPORTED BY PLANES AND ARMOURED UNITS.

VERY HEAVY FIGHTING HAS OCCURRED IN AND AROUND THE TOWN.

IN THE MONTMEDY AREA THERE IS NOTHING TO REPORT.

EAST OF THE MOSELLS - ALONG THE MAIN MAGINOT DEFENCES -

FOREIGN STATIONS.

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Italian Reports Preparations

Mediterranean.

Report from Trieste (B1) That Naval Officers and men on leave have been recalled.

Reports from Genoa and Rome that certain Naval Reservists have been called up (B1). (NA Rome 1931/12)

Naples reports much naval and military activity during past few days.

(SOI Malta 1357/14.)

WARSPITE. My 1342/3. Italian Naval attaché today informed WARSPITE has now joined Mediterranean Station. (DNI, 2012/14)

Precautions.

The situation with regard to Italy has apparently deteriorated during the last few days, and although it is not repetition not considered that war is likely to break out in the very near future a close watch should be kept on Italian shipping in order that plans for interception may be rapidly put into force.

2327/14

for D.O.D.(F)

WAS BROADCAST BY THE DUTCH WIRELESS THIS AFTERNOON.

"ON THE MORNING OF MAY 13 GERMAN PLANES ATTACKED SHIPS OF THE NETHERLANDS ROYAL NAVY IN DUTCH WATERS OFF NORTHERN HOLLAND. THIS ATTACK WAS UNSUCCESSFUL.

"OF THE FOUR GERMAN PLANES WHICH FLEW OVER DEN HELDER (THE NAVAL BASE) THREE WERE SHOT DOWN. LATER TWO MORE WERE BROUGHT DOWN.

"IN THE EVENING OF THE 13TH GERMAN ARTILLERY WAS ACTIVE FOR ONE HOUR PREPARING AN ATTEMPT TO TAKE THE DAM SEPARATING THE YSSEL LAKE FROM THE NORTH SEA. THE ATTACK WAS BEATEN OFF."

M-2 --REUTER

14.29 BIG ALLIED REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE IN BELGIUM

FOREIGN STATIONS. Mediterranean 14.5.40 Tuesday

SECRET

Rumanian Tankers

Manager of STEAUA ROMANA requests that in event of war with Italy following tankers flying Roumanian flag on run from Marseilles Tripoli should be detained in or ordered to French Port. ~~S.S.~~ OLTANIA 19800 tons, ~~call sign Y P A Y. S.S.~~ STEAUA ROMANA 700 tons, ~~call sign Y P B E. S.S.~~ CAMPINA 4000 tons, ~~call sign Y P A K.~~

(NA Bucharest 1933/14.)

~~Conte~~ CONTE DI SAVOIA

Report immediately if she has sailed (DC. for Prime Minister 0737/14 to B.C. Genoa) Scheduled to sail 15/5 (Edmond, Genoa 1900/14)

fleet exercises

The Allied Fleet is proceeding to sea A.M. tomorrow Wednesday May 15th. returning to Harbour the same evening.

(Cipher 1121/14 to BNA Rome)

Escort for REX?

Reuters Correspondent hears Italian Navy intends sending Escort for ~~Italian MMS ship~~ REX who sailed from New York Saturday May 11th Homeward bound.

Report lacks confirmation.

(NA Rome 1313/13. to DNI)

OF A FAMILY, MR FUJIWARA STATED [illegible] THAT HE CON-
SIDERED THIS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR ORDINARY CONSUMPTION.
SPECIAL ALLOWANCES OF MATCHES WOULD BE MADE FOR SMOKERS.
M-2 --REUTER

11.24 ADD 11.13 - LORD GORT'S ORDER OF THE DAY.

THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF THE ORDER AS ISSUED HERE:

"I CONGRATULATE ALL COMMANDERS OF UNITS, THEIR OFFICERS AND MEN ON THE ADMIRABLE WAY IN WHICH THE ADVANCE WAS CARRIED OUT WITH THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT OF YOUR COMRADES OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

"WE ARE TODAY ON THE EVE OF A GREAT MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE EMPIRE. THE STRUGGLE WILL BE HARD AND LONG BUT WE CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN FINAL VICTORY." --REUTER.

S-1

FOREIGN STATIONS

14.5.40
Tuesday

SECRET

~~14 May~~

Concentration Destroyers

Admy 0102/14. Following destroyers selected HYPERION, HOSTILE, HAVOCK, HEREWARD, INGLEFIELD, IMOGEN, ILEX, IMPERIAL, SIKH, ZULU, MOHAWK, NUBIAN, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY, KHARTOUM, KINGSTON.

Captains (D) 4 to be appointed to one of the tribals.

It is intended that HERO & HASTY shd go in the first place being relieved by INGLEFIELD & IMOGEN when ~~the~~ ready.

(C-in-C. Home Fleet to Admy. 1021/14)
my 1024/14. Add ISIS to first Force. (C-in-C HF 2317/14)

Trawlers & ESPADON

~~Trawlers LOCH MELFORT, VICTORY~~
4 Trawlers and French s/m ESPADON arrived Alexandria (SOO(1) Alexandria 1516/14)

MIRAGLIA Italian aircraft transport and tanker arrived

Transport sailings to be resumed

It has become urgently necessary to resume transport sailings from Marseilles, ~~and it is intended that MOHAMED ALI EL KEBIR and AL RAWDAH should sail for Alexandria on 19th May. The latter will call at Malta to disembark 100 naval ratings.~~

~~Instructions regarding further groups to be sailed about 24th May and 29th May will be signalled.~~

C. in C. Medit~~erranean~~n ~~is requested~~ to arrange with F.O.C.N.A. to provide two destroyers of 13th Flotilla as escorts for group sailing 19th May.

(ACNS (A) 1818/14th.)

"LIEGE TOWN IS IN GERMAN HANDS. IN THE AREA SOUTH OF THE LINE LIEGE-NAMUR OUR TROOPS HAVE LEFT THE ARDENNES BEHIND THEM AND, WITH THEIR VANGUARDS, HAVE REACHED THE MEUSE BETWEEN NAMUR AND GIVET.

"IN SOUTHERN BELGIUM, TOO, OUR MOVEMENTS ARE RAPID AND ACCORDING TO PLAN. OUR TROOPS REACHED THE FRENCH-LUXEMBOURG AND THE FRENCH-BELG AN FRONTIER NEARLY EVERYWHERE AS FAR AS MEZIERES-CHARLEVILLE AND CROSSED IT AT MANY POINTS.

"UNDER THE PROTECTION OF CONTINUALLY ATTACKING FIGHTER, DIVE-BOMBER AND BOMBER UNITS AND AS A RESULT OF THEIR SHATTERING EFFECTS, WE SUCCEEDED IN CROSSING THE MEUSE ALSO ON FRENCH TERRITORY.

"SOUTH OF SAARBRUECKEN, THE LIEUTENANT OF AN INFANTRY REGIMENT, OTTO SCHULTZ, DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY PARTICULAR COURAGE.

"EXTENDING YESTERDAY'S SUCCESSES, WE PENETRATED INTO THE ENEMY POSITIONS IN THE AREA OF MERZIG AND SOUTH OF PERMASENS, CAPTURING FRENCH AND BRITISH PRISONERS.

"APART FROM ASSISTING THE ARMY, OUR AIRFORCE ATTACKED SEVERAL ENEMY AERODROMES. AT THE AERODROME OF HAMSTEDE ALONE, 26 [illegible] DESTROYED ON THE GROUND.

FOREIGN STATIONS. Mediterranean

14.5.40.
Tuesday

SECRET

~~14 May~~

Concentration of destroyers

Four TRIBAL and four K class Destroyers also nine Destroyers of A to I class; one A/A Cruiser with R.D.F. and three sloops with good A/A armament to assemble at Plymouth / Oban for Mediterranean in one or more groups as soon as practicable (Adty to C-in-C H. Fleet 0102/14)

FOREIGN STATIONS. SECRET 14.5.1940
North Atlantic. Tuesday.

French positions Italian ships.

Convoys & patrols 1350/14 (OL 0035/14)

~~C/C~~ Re~~ferences~~ ~~Naval~~ ~~Attache~~ Rome, 1313/13

~~13th May~~ to D.N.I, French C. in C's have received instructions that if Italian merchant ships escorted by warships are met no action is to be taken except to identify them and their escort. Request early instruction whether British warships are to act similarly.

(FOCNA 1452/14 ~~May~~)

09.31. ASAMA MARU: BRITAIN RETURNING GERMANS

.....TOKIO, FEB 28.....NINE OF THE GERMANS REMOVED FROM THE JAPANESE LINER ASAMA MARU BY A BRITISH WARSHIP LAST MONTH WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES FROM A BRITISH VESSEL OFF YOKOHAMA TOMORROW, THE JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN REVEALED TODAY.

CAPTIAN D.N.C. TUFNELL, NAVAL ATTACHE AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY, AND A JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE PRESENT, IT IS STATED. REUTER

CH-1

09.33. GERMANS TO BE TAKEN FROM HONGKONG

.....HONGKONG, FEB 28.....AN OFFICIAL NAVAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED HERE THIS MORNING STATES THAT THE NINE GERMANS ARE BEING BROUGHT FROM HONGKONG IN A BRITISH VESSEL FOR DELIVERY TO THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVES. REUTER

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Your 1942 12th May Dutch authorities in Lisbon eager to assist but state they have orders to keep homeward bound Dutch ships in port pending further orders. Request Dutch Government in London be asked to issue necessary orders. Will all ships sailing to allied ports be fully covered against all risk?

1300/14

/ Dutch & Belgian ships bound for Dutch or Belgian ports to be brought into U.K. as soon as possible under convoy

AMC's to operate from Lisbon by British warships of Portuguese Coast (NA Lisbon 1709/14)

~~720~~ Admiralty's 1809/14.

PATROCLUS and ASTURIAS on patrol ordered to steer 180° CARINTHIA in Irish Sea ordered to steer for Western Approaches. DERBYSHIRE and CHESHIRE at Clyde ready to proceed P.M. Wednesday or A.M. Thursday.

Endurance of ships on moving at 15 knots with 3 days margin additional ASTURIAS at least 16 PATROCLUS at least 15 CARINTHIA 15 CHESHIRE 16 DERBYSHIRE 21.

(V.A.N.P., 2340/14.)

~~Bombay LOCH MELFORT, VICTORIAN, BANDOLERO, LYDIARD and Bombay Maru ESPADON arrived (Sol, Aberdeen, 1876/14)~~

T17.08 FINNISH COMMUNIQUE.

HELSINKI, FEB 28: TODAY'S FINNISH WAR COMMUNIQUE SAYS:

"LAND: IN THE KARELIAN ISTHMUS THE FINNISH TROOPS FOUGHT DEFENSIVE BATTLES INFLICTING HEAVY LOSSES ON THE ENEMY.

"SEVERAL TANK WERE DESTROYED.

"THERE WAS VERY HEAVY ARTILLERY ACTIVITY ON BOTH SIDES.

"NORTH-WEST OF LAKE LADOGA ENEMY ATTEMPTS TO ADVANCE WERE REPULSED. SEVERAL ENEMY DETACHMENTS WERE DISPERSED.

"AT KUHMO THE FINNS ARE CONTINUING THEIR ACTION AGAINST SURROUNDING SOVIET STRONG POINTS."

S-2 --REUTER.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.
Home Commands.

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

GRENADE in collision in fog with Trawler CAYTON WYKE. 51°5'N 1°21'E. Trawler undamaged. GRENADE bow above water line, no immediate assistance required (GRENADE 0936/14).

HESPERUS ~~Contacted~~ Your 2357/13 HESPERUS can be taken in hand for docking and repairs at Dundee (DDD(H) 1859/14 to FO Narvik.)

VERSATILE Damage by bomb (13/5) x Watertightness of ship not affected. One engine out of use. Considered repairs can be effected in Sheerness (C in C Nore. 1/c Sheerness 2037/14) Steaming 12 knots on one engine but this is very unreliable. JANUS also with her (HYPERION 0937/14)

HAVORN I Aground in S Kvarnoray harbour (NOIC Stornoway 1415/14) Refloated (NOIC Stornoway 0039/15) (NOIC Stornoway 1601/14)

NARWHAL 0200/9 one piston port engine partially ~~sig~~ seized cylinder cut out. (Capt. S 6 1528/14)

15.05 3RD ADD 13.30 "SOUTH AFRICAN BUDGET"

IT HAD BEEN STATED CONTINUED MR HOFMEYR, THAT THE GOLD-MINING INDUSTRY HAD SPENT £78,000,000 ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT SINCE DECEMBER, 1932, BUT HE ADDED, IT WAS A VERY CONSIDERABLE OVER-STATEMENT TO SAY THAT, OWING TO THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RESULTANT SHOCK TO THE CONFIDENCE OF THE INVESTING PUBLIC, THE STREAM OF CAPITAL WOULD DRY UP. THERE WERE THE LIMITING FACTORS OF NATIVE LABOUR, OF WAR AND THE SYSTEM OF TREASURY CONTROL. IT WAS A FURTHER OVER-STATEMENT TO SAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY MILITATED AGAINST THE WORKING OF LOWER GRADE ORE, BUT THERE WERE FOUR LARGE MINES ON THE WITWATERSRAND EMPLOYING 2,500 EUROPEANS AND 20,000 NON-/374903-,' 8, $-,%34 OF CLOSING WITHIN THE NEXT FIFTEEN MONTHS UNLESS THE MINING

HOME COMMANDS.
Miscellaneous.

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

SECRET

Swedish Lights

All lights on the East Coast of Sweden, including those on internal waterways, have been extinguished. Radio beacons are no longer working.

(Ruegen Radio, via Kopa W/T,
No. T.O.O./14)

0500/14.

WEATHER

	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Light westerly	Moderate to good	Wind backing ~~South~~ SW ~~West~~ or ~~South~~. Moderate to fresh.
Channel	SW, light.	Moderate & good.	Freshening winds.
W. Approaches	SW to W Moderate	Good	Freshening winds
Horns Reef	Light westerly	Moderate	Similar
Terschelling	Light westerly	Good	Similar.

PLEASE READ MUTILATED FIRST LINE:

SOMEWHERE IN NORWAY: MAY 14: ALLIED TROOPS HAVE LANDED AT

BJERKVIK IN THE NARVIK REGION ETC....

09.27 SITUATION ENCOURAGING , THINKS FRENCH COMMENTATOR

PARIS, MAY 14: AN ENCOURAGING VIEW OF THE SITUATION IS

TAKEN BY M. CHARLES MORICE, MILITARY COMMENTATOR OF THE

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Enemy Intelligence.

Convoy, 4 ships — Convoy of 4 ships with 2 destroyers sighted by A/C in BQYV 5039 at 1500/14 course southerly. (C in C Nore, 2232/14)

Convoy, 11 ships. — French S/M CASABIANCA sighted 11 enemy transports with escort ships 2 aircraft bearing 240° distance 8 miles course and speed 120° 15. Her position 8 miles southward of Lindesnes course 180°, and attacked. (CASABIANCA, 0855/14. OA.IC., 1126/14)

2 merchant ships — of 1000 and 1500 tons respectively were sighted in 53°57'N 7°30'E steering 130° (36 miles NW Wilhelmshaven) at 0435/14 A 1. (IC.0451/40)

Surface mit. — Unknown surface mit was located in 56°20'N 6°20'E (60 miles NW Horns Reef) at 1930/14 A 1 (IC.0451/40)

12.45 NAZI WAR PROFITEERS TO BE SUPPRESSED FEB 28.

"THE GERMAN POLICE WILL TREAT CRIMINALS AND WAR PROFITEERS AS THEY DO SHIPS SAILING WITH CONTRABAND TO GREAT BRITAIN - THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE A SECOND ATTEMPT," IT WAS STATED IN A TALK ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GERMAN POLICE, BROADCAST BY THE GERMAN WIRELESS THIS MORNING.

"IF WE WANT TO PREVENT A REPETITION OF 1918, THE SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT MUST KNOW THAT THE HOME FRONT IS NOT BEING UNDERMINED. FOR THE SAKE OF VICTORY, EVERY SINGLE GERMAN MUST GIVE HIS HELP TO HUNT DOWN SUCH WAR PROFITEERS AND REPORT THEM TO THE POLICE."

M-2 --/437534

HOME COMMANDS.
Enemy Intelligence.

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

~~Transports & Destroyers~~
One Transport with a/c's.

One enemy transport accompanied by aircraft position of enemy was ~~D F O X 09~~ 63°4'N 4°28'E 28 at 1602. Am attempting to regain touch lost in low visibility. My position ~~D F O X 13 32.~~ 63°3'N 4°32'E

(CLYDE 1631/14. ~~7~~ DNI 1836/14)

Trawlers might be used as transports

3 German Trawlers were captured just prior to 9th April off coast of Norway between Tromso and Norwegian - Finnish border. Information obtained from them suggests further Trawlers may still be fishing in the area probably from Russia. Some are fast and might be used by enemy for transport of troops.

(C C H F 1726/14)

Swedish attitude.

Large enemy hospital ship proceeding through Kattegat to Norway May 13th used all possible Swedish Territorial Waters. No. 2 Several Danish ships have been ordered to do the same owing to fear of mines. No apparent action is being taken by this Government.

(Actg. Consul, Malmo 1810/14)

WOULD BE A COMPLEMENT TO THE EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

B-1 -3REUTER

''' '''

15.14 SHIPS AT CONTRABAND CONTROL BASES. FEB 28

ON FEBRUARY 27 THERE WERE 27 NEUTRAL SHIPS IN THE THREE CONTRABAND CONTROL BASES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, OF WHICH 15 HAD BEEN THERE FOR FIVE DAYS OR LESS. THIS TOTAL INCLUDED:

13 DUTCH	(6 FOR 5 DAYS OR LESS)
5 NORWEGIAN	(4 " " " " ")
2 BELGIAN	(1 " " " " ")
2 DANISH	(1 " " " " ")
2 ITALIAN	

HOME COMMANDS.
Shipping.

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

SECRET

Rear Convoys Portkins &c. (DC 1953/14)

Dutch Tankers. Immediate information required of presence or arrival of small Dutch tankers in SK (DTD 2149/14)

SSACCRINGTON Inspect for sabotage. Degaussing cable cut. ~~(Fowey~~ Probably caused by workmen dissatisfied at being asked to work Whit Monday (~~Admy~~ F.O. Humber (909/14)

11.52 DUTCH HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE

THE HAGUE, MAY 10.: THE DUTCH HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE STATES:

"GERMAN TROOPS CROSSED THE DUTCH FRONTIER BEGINNING AT THREE A.M. TODAY. AERIAL ATTACKS HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTED ON SEVERAL AERODROMES.

"THE ARMY AND THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY ARE READY. FLOODING IS BEING CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO PLAN.

"UP TO THE PRESENT SO FAR AS IS KNOWN AT LEAST SIX GERMAN AEROPLANES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT DOWN." --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS

SECRET

14.5.40
Tuesday

firing.

Sweden has declared a mine field North of Falsterbo bounded by 55°29'N, 55°26'N, 12°47.8'E and 12°50.5'E.

NARWHAL. FD 12 completed 1730/11 without incident in circuit within 1½ miles 62°58'N 6°48'E. No surface patrols occasional air patrols near diving position never dark (Capt. S6 1528/14)

Propose minelayers should effectively mine all Dutch ports as soon as it is known that we have lost them.

C in C Nore 1740/14. To Admy.

17.45 NETHERLANDS SHIPPING COMMITTEE MAY 14.

THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT HAS CONFERRED ON THE NETHERLANDS MINISTER IN LONDON THE RIGHTS AND POWERS WHICH ARE LAID DOWN IN THE REQUISITIONING AND SHIPPING LAWS OF THE NETHERLANDS.

THE MINISTER HAS APPOINTED A COMMITTEE IN LONDON FOR THE PRESENT CONSISTING OF FOUR NETHERLANDS SHIPOWNERS TO ADVISE HIM AND TO ACT AS, IN HIS RESPONSIBILITY, HE SHOULD DEEM NECESSARY.

THE COMMITTEE, WHICH HAD ITS FIRST INTERVIEW YESTERDAY WITH THE BRITISH MINISTER OF SHIPPING, IS COMPOSED OF MR DIRK HUDIG, CHAIRMAN, MR VALSTAR, AND DR GISCHLER. THE SECRETARY IS MR DIRKSTRA AND THE COMMITTEE'S ADDRESS IS BALTIC HOUSE, LEADENHALL STREET, E.C.3. --REUTER

M-2

SECRET

14.5.1940

Tuesday.

Air.

Enemy Air Activity.

MALCOLM — Enemy A/C attacking and bombing Hook. (MALCOLM, 0907/14) Attacked Hornchurch at Hook (MALCOLM, 1024/14, 1029/14, 1420/14 Large number a/c bombing Hook Holland. (MALCOLM, 1425/14, 1509/14, 3 a/c CPOX 250-16 (MALCOLM, 1708/14) 5 a/c, 355 VXST 32 (MALCOLM, 1924/14)

~~WESSEX~~ ~~Attacked and bombed by a/c at Hook. (WESSEX, 0917/14, 0923/14, 1927/14, 0933/14) Bombed CPVS 0427 (WESSEX 0954/14).~~

CODRINGTON — Enemy a/c bombing Hook (CODRINGTON, 1425/14)

VESPER — Enemy a/c bombing in position CPTF 29417 (VESPER 1646/14)

WHITSHED — Bombed while Evacuating troops from Hook (IC.0451/40)

12.42 MR CHURCHILL'S "LECTURE" TO NEUTRALS - DUTCH REACTION

AMSTERDAM, FEB 28.: A STIR HAS BEEN CREATED IN HOLLAND BY WHAT IS DESCRIBED HERE AS MR CHURCHILL'S "LECTURE" TO THE NEUTRALS IN PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY. THIS SECTION OF HIS REVIEW OF THE WAR AT SEA IS GIVEN MUCH PROMINENCE IN THE LONG REPORTS OF THE SPEECH PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS. THE ONLY COMMENT PRINTED, HOWEVER, COMES FROM THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT OF THE NIEUWE ROTTERDAMSCHE COURANT.

THIS CORRESPONDENT WRITES: "IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ENGLISHMEN TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE NEUTRALS DO NOT MAKE A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN BRITAIN'S WAY OF WAGING WAR AS THE RESULT OF WHICH THEY HAVE HITHERTO ONLY SUFFERED FINANCIAL LOSSES AND GERMANY'S INDIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES AND RIGHTS OF NEUTRAL SEAMEN.

"CHURCHILL'S NEW OUTBURST AGAINST THE NEUTRALS IS THUS COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDABLE WITHOUT SEEKING A SINISTER POLITICAL MEANING BEHIND IT. IT MUST BE REGARDED AS AN ACT OF GROSS CLUMSINESS BUT NO MORE THAN THAT." --REUTER

M-2

HOME COMMANDS.
Air.

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Enemy Air Activity.

Flying Boat Sunk. Flying boat presumed hostile close in shore 2½ miles S.W. Ebeveningen. Inform Dutch authorities. (Capt D.16 to WESSEX, 0512/14). Key 0512, one mark (D.16, 0515/14)

MATABELE Bombed DRXT 2500 (MATABELE, 0550/14)

WESSEX Attacked and bombed by a/c at Hook (WESSEX 0917/14) Bombed CPTS 0427 / WESSEX 0934/14) Anchoring heavily bombed (WESSEX, 0923/14 0927/14 0930/14)

Hook. Large number A/C bombing Hook Holland. (MALCOLM, 1420/14 1425/14). Enemy a/c's bombing Hook (MALCOLM 0907/14) Ditto ~~Codrington~~ (CODRINGTON. 1425/14).

OF ROTTERDAM. GERMAN TROOPS WHO OCCUPIED THE LANGESTRAAT
WERE ABLE TO REACH THE OERDYK BRIDGE AND CROSS IT.

THE CONTINGENTS OF FRENCH TROOPS IN BRAPANT ARE INCREASING.

UNITS OF THE DUTCH ARMY AND NAVY ARE HEROICALLY RESISTING IN A MANNER WHICH CONFIRMS THE HISTORIC TRADITION OF THE DUTCH PEOPLE, A TRADITION WHICH IS EQUALLY REFLECTED IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION.

ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT OF A GERMAN AIR OFFICER, WHO HAS BEEN MADE PRISONER, GERMAN AIRCRAFT HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES THROUGH DUTCH ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE.

S-1 --REUTER.

09.25 MORE ALLIED TROOPS LANDED NEAR NARVIK.

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Air

Enemy air activity

There is indication of enemy air activity in northern part of the North Sea. (ODIC 1005/(x)

~~Home~~

IN NORTH AND CENTRAL BELGIUM WITHOUT BEING APPRECIABLY DISTURBED BY THE ENEMY.

FIGHTING CONTINUES EAST OF THE LINE ON WHICH THE ALLIED COMMAND INTENDS TO GIVE BATTLE.

LIEGE IS STILL HOLDING OUT. THE GREAT BATTLE IN THAT REGION HAS NOT YET BEGUN.

THE GERMANS HAVE MADE RAPID PROGRESS WITH LARGE FORCES AND ARMOURED COLUMNS IN THE BELGIUM ARDENNES. THEY HAVE BEEN OPPOSED BY FRENCH CAVALRY AND BELGIAN CHASSEURS.

BY LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON GERMAN ADVANCE GUARDS HAD REACHED THE MEUSE AT A NUMBER OF POINTS.

FURTHER GERMAN FORCES CONTINUED TO ARRIVE THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND THEY HAVE PROBABLY NOW REACHED THE RIVER AT ALL CROSSING POINTS. --REUTER.

S-1

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

British air Activity.

Air.

Best target for attack of frozen lake landing grounds is 250 lb. G.P. fuzed N.D.T. which should make hole 20 ft. in diameter. (Hd. of M., 0945/(44)

12.32 ADD 09.31 (ASAMA MARU)

THE MEN WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF BY THE GERMAN CONSUL AT YOKOHAMA, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, BUT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR JAPAN TO HAND THEM OVER TO THE GERMAN CONSUL, SINCE SHE HAD NEVER BEEN APPROACHED BY GERMANY IN THE MATTER.

ASKED WHETHER THE WHOLE INCIDENT WOULD NOW BE CONSIDERED SETTLED, HE SAID THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL DEMANDING THE RETURN OF THE REMAINING GERMANS, AND THEREFORE EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. --REUTER

B-2

HOME COMMANDS.
Air.

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

British Air Activity.

British a/c's not to fly over enemy or neutral countries unless fitted with destructor units complete and ready for touching off
(Air Min. 1837/14)

A/C fired at by own trawlers 2030 BFWV 1030
(Dowbristle 2305/14)

Skuas for attacks on Bergen.

~~751~~ 16 ~~Sixteen~~ Skuas are going to be stationed at Hatston ~~and it is~~ proposed to use them primarily to attack targets in ~~the~~ vicinity of Bergen and also enemy warships destroyers and above and transports between Utvoer and Egersund. ~~It is requested~~
(C-C HF 1640/14)

29.09 INCREASED IMPORTS FROM FRANCE FEB 27.

THE IMPORT LICENSING DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCES A SERIES OF IMPORTANT MODIFICATIONS AS A RESULT OF WHICH IT IS EXPECTED THAT FRENCH IMPORTS TO THIS COUNTRY WILL BE GREATLY INCREASED. THIS MEASURE IS A DIRECT OUTCOME OF THE RECENT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN A FRENCH DELEGATION LED BY M. ALPHAND AND THE AUTHORITIES IN LONDON.

AS A RESULT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO ALLOW THE IMPORT FROM FRANCE WITHOUT ANY FORM OF LICENSING OF A LONG LIST OF GOODS, INCLUDING PERFUMED SPIRITS, PRINTED MATTER AND TABLE WATERS.

IN THE CASE OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES, SILK, RAYON, LACE AND FURSKINS, THE BOARD OF TRADE WILL, MOREOVER, BE* PREPARED TO CONSIDER IN FUTURE ANY APPLICATIONS FOR IMPORT MADE BY IMPORTERS WH PREVIOUSLY DERIVED SUPPLIES OF THESE ARTICLES FROM OTHER SOURCES. --REUTER

M-1

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Submarines

Positions 0600/14 (DC 0004/14)
0600/15 (VAS 1648/14 ≠, DC. 1957/14) Shown off Dutch Coast between 52°11'0°N and 53°12°N (DC 1958/14)

~~SECRET~~

Enemy Transport

(See Enemy Intelligence)
Your 1631 14th May. Do not act on my 1423 14th May unless there is no further chance of intercepting transport.

(Capt. SG 1858/14. ≠ to CL 4565)

17.32 DUTCH VESSEL BOMBED. MAR 4.

THE MASTER AND ENGINEER OF THE DUTCH COASTAL VESSEL 'ELZIENA' WERE KILLED WHEN THEY WERE BOMBED BY NAZIS IN THE NORTH SEA. THREE SURVIVORS WERE LANDED AT A N.E. COAST PORT TODAY AFTER 36 HOURS AT SEA ON A RAFT. --REUTER

B-2

17.34 RUSSIAN ORE SUPPLIES FOR GERMANY.

RIGA, MAR 4: SOVIET RUSSIA IS SENDING REGULAR SUPPLIES OF MANGANESE ORE TO GERMANY, BUT IS VERY SLOW IN DELIVERING BAR IRON TO LATVIA.

ON THE OTHER HAND LATVIA AND THE OTHER BALTIC STATES ARE RECEIVING RUSSIAN CONCENTRATED FODDER AND FERTILIZERS PROMPTLY, AS

~~1645~~ 5.40
~~S. Hanley~~
~~5.5.1940~~
~~Thursday.~~
~~Sunday~~
~~Wednesday~~
Thursday

SECRET

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

~~Ships Attacked.~~ S/m's Reported

~~AMAZONE~~ ~~French submarine, missed by torpedo, about 0001/12, in 52.55' N., 4.28' E., 349 Ymuiden 30'.~~ (~~I.C., 0445/40~~)

0930 Brg d/c 56°5'N 28°0'E (A/c 0930/16) (no attack)

Estimated dispositions. 1 in 56°05' N, 4° 28' E at 0930/16, co. NW.
Possibly 1 patrolling North Channel.
Possibly 1 in W. Approaches.
No further deductions possible. (DDIC 1352/16)

BERNE, MAY 14.: THE SWISS MINISTER IN BERLIN HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO LODGE A PROTEST AGAINST THE BOMBING OF COURRENDLIN BY GERMAN AIRCRAFT ON FRIDAY.

HE IS TO INFORM THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT THAT SWITZERLAND RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CLAIM COMPENSAT ON FOR THE DAMAGE CAUSED.

THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IS ALSO BEING ASKED TO TAKE SEPTS TO AVOID SUCH VIOLATIONS OF SWISS TERRITORY IN THE FUTURE. --REUTER

M-2

517.21 ADD3BB.01 "AMERICAS TO PROTEST"

THE TEXT OF THIS DRAFT HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS RELEASED A CABLE FROM URUGUAY IN WHICH THE PROTEST WAS FIRST SUGGESTED WHICH STATED INTER ALIA: "THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY BELIEVES THAT RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF NEUTRALITY IS AN INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLE WHICH SHOULD FORMALLY BE MAINTAINED WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES MAY BE IN WHICH THE BELLIGERENTS FIND THEMSELVES."

SECRET

14.5.40

Dutch + Belgian Warships & principal M.V's

S/m's

hy 1242 Request any further Dutch submarines arriving any proceed to Portsmouth (V.A.S. 1757/14)

Your 1824/13.

A. Concur that submarines should be based on Blyth after completion of one patrol.

B. Dutch Naval Attache agrees in principle with your suggestions and as officers and men become available will comply as far as possible.

1154/14, to V.A.(S))

Trawlers

A large number of Dutch Trawlers are expected shortly at Spithead. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange suitable anchorage in Spithead or The Solent and for examination on arrival. Arrangements for final disposal are under consideration.

(D.T.D. 1327/14) A

To be routed to Downs for further instructions (D.T.D. 1132/14)

LIBRA 5 VENOMOUS escorting. Expect to arrive N. Foreland L.V. 2330 (VENOMOUS 2153/14)

SINKINGS. UNLESS THERE ARE SOME FEATURES OF SPECIAL INTEREST WE LEAVE THEM WRAPPED IN MYSTERY BUT AS THIS CASE HAS BEEN MENTIONED I DO NOT MIND SAYING THAT IT IS AN UNDER STATEMENT BECAUSE ACTUALLY WITHIN THE LAST TWO DAYS THERE WAS ONE CERTAIN AND TWO ALMOST CERTAIN U-BOAT SINKINGS.

"THIS MAY BE SATISFACTORY SO FAR AS IT GOES, BUT REMEMBERING THE SUBSTANTIAL LOSSES WE HAVE SUFFERED FROM UST THESE FEW U-BOATS OPERATING UP TO THE PRESENT, THE HOUSE WILL SEE HOW VAST MUST BE THE PREPARATIONS WHICH WE OUGHT TO MAKE AND WHICH WE HAVE MADE TO COPE WITH THE FULL SCALE OF ATTACK WHICH MAY COME UPON US LATER ON.

"BUT WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE SUMMER THE NEW BUILDING OF U-BOATS WILL INCREASINGLY COME INTO PLAY AND WE EXPECT TO MEET THESE WITHOUT VERY LARGE NEW BUILDINGS OF CRAFT SPECIALLY ADAPTED TO THEIR DESTRUCTION.

"THE TOKEN ESTIMATE PROVIDES FOR AN IMMENSE PROGRAMME. IN FACT WE SHALL BE BUILDING ALL THIS SUMMER AT OUR EXTREME CAPACITY, SUBJECT ONLY TO ONE CONDITION.

"I HAVE ALSO UNDERTAKEN TO TRY TO MAKE A LARGE INCREASE IN THE RATE OF MERCHANT SHIPBUILDING IN ORDER TO REPLACE INEVITABLE LOSSES. OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE TO BALANCE ONE FORM OF BUILDING AGAINST THE OTHER AND THAT IS BEST DONE BY MAKING THE ADMIRALTY RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Dutch & Belgian Warships and principal ~~Allied~~ Merchant Ships
~~Dutch Naval Units & Merchant Ships~~

S/m's Dutch legation state all Dutch submarines now in harbour. (D.C., 0220/13)
Dutch tug and s/m's D9 and D10 anchored in Downs 0530
(VA Dover 0941/14)

PHRONTUS Arrived in Downs (VA Dover 1039/14) Carrying 900 prisoners
Report if seen and escort her to Downs (NOIC Dover 0440/14
to VENOMOUS.) Position (VENOMOUS Rec. 0938/14)

PERSEUS (with gold) Escort her to Southend then proceed to Sheerness
(C. in C Nore 0737/14 to V/A Y)

S/m's. HAVOCK Endeavour to get in touch with Trawlers ASANA and NORSE proceeding from Flushing to Ymuiden. Direct them to proceed to Helder and sweep 2 Dutch S/Ms to sea. On completion trawlers to proceed to Zeebrugge, ~~Inform them of Q Z X 47 and Q Z X 55. Inform me by 1530 whether orders passed.~~

(C. in C Nore 1229/14.)

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN Minelayer, arrived in Downs [illegible] 5/4)

S/m's ~~1365~~ 1 Intend to sail Dutch Minelayer 3 WILLEM VAN DER ZELBEN Tug B V Five and Submarines O 9, O 10 and O 24 at 0500/15 for Portsmouth speed 8½ knots. (VA Dover 1943/14)

COVER BRUSSELS. THE FIGHTING IS NOW IN ITS EARLY STAGES AND FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS THE POSITION IS LIKELY TO BE SOMEWHAT - - OBSCURE BUT WE ARE WITHOUT DOUBT WITNESSING THE BEGINNING OF A GREAT BATTLEPM AAREUTER.

S-2

13.18 CALM REIGNS IN BRUSSELS. MAY 14.

NEWS RECEIVED FROM HM.'S EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS STATES THAT EVERYTHING HAS BEEN REASONABLY QUIET THERE SINCE THE FIRST DAY OF THE INVASION AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER BOMBING OF BRUSSELS ITSELF. THE MORALE OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IS EXTREMELY STEADY AND THE SPEECH BY M. PIERLOT ON SUNDAY SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A VERY GOOD INFLUENCE. THERE IS NO DESIRE OR NEED TO EVACUATE THE CITY. MEMBERS OF OUR EMBASSY ARE TO REMAIN AT THEIR POSTS, ALTHOUGH THEIR WIVES HAVE LEFT FRO ENGLAND. --REUTER.

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Low Countries &c.

Zeebrugge.

Following by telephone from Peterson. Flushing has been damaged by enemy bombing and impossible to work from there. I have moved to Zeebrugge, where am working in close cooperation with the Danish. 2 of my sweepers have gone to Work of Holland. British N.A., Hague, told me send 2 others to Ymuiden. I refused and was supported by Danish Admiral here, who considers as I do that the Vendelsea-Flushing Channel is vital. Cannot assure clearance of this channel with only 2 sweepers, and request 2 more double L type. Have moved the skid to Zeebrugge to avoid damage. Dutch naval authorities can make nothing of it, say they have not the knowledge or the material. One of my drifters, LICHEN, with magnetic sweep, has not been demagnetised, as is dangerous. Coal, petrol & provision arranged but have no means of paying for them. There are definitely no Belgian mines outside Zeebrugge. Danish ship GORM sunk outside entrance harbour in position 1.3 miles 020° and light on Zeebrugge Mole, head point 200°. (BNLO Dunkirk, 1140/14)

~~at Zeebrugge, Belgium~~ :- Your message received. ARCTIC HUNTER and ST MELANTE are returning to you but unaware of move to Zeebrugge. Reliefs for casualties being sent. (DMS/1956/14 to BNLO Dunkirk for Cdr. Peterson).

11.28 RADIO PARIS SILENT. MAY 14.

THE LONG WAVE TRANSMITTER, RADIO PARIS, WAS NOT ON THE AIF FOR ITS NEWS BULLETIN AT 09.30 AND WAS STILL SILENT AT 11.OO THIS MORNING.

SOME OF THE MEDIUM-WAVE STATIONS ARE ALSO OFF THE AIR.

OTHERS EEM TO BE IN OPERATION BUT NONE OF THEM IS BROADCASTING AT PRESENT. --REUTER.

S-1

SECRET

14. 5-40
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS
Low Countries &c.
~~Dutch Coast~~

Dieppe
Closed to Dutch Trawlers.

French S.N.O. has closed Port to all Dutch Trawlers day and night of which 200 are expected in next 24 hours. British Military Authorities much disturbed anticipating any 5th Column activities. French Naval authorities say that proper examination prior to entry impracticable. Request instructions. French S.N.O. requesting instructions from Admiral, Havre.

(NCSO Dieppe, 0025/14)

All ships over 500 tons have left and 80% of total shipping. (Newsham Miss in 1230/14

THE FRONT IS PRETTY CALM.

TWO GERMAN ATTACKS WERE LAUNCHED ON THE PLATEAU EAST OF FORBACH, BUT WERE HELD.

SOME LOCAL ACTIONS ALSO OCCURRED DURING THE NIGHT IN LOWER ALSACE NEAR WISSEMBOURG.

THE ALLIED AIR FORCES YESTERDAY ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS.

THE R.A.F. EFFECTIVELY BOMBED AND MACHINE-GUNNED COLUMNS AND CONVOYS IN THE GERMAN REAR, AND COMMUNICATIONS LEADING TO BELGIUM AND HOLLAND AND ALONG THE RHINE.

GERMAN PLANES BOMBED A NUMBER OF POINTS IN ADDITION TO THEIR OPERATIONS DURING THE LAND FIGHTING. --REUTER.

13.00 BELGIAN WARNING AGAINST PANIC-MONGERS MAY 14.

"THE SITUATION IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THE PANIC-

MONGERS CLAIM IT TO BE," SAYS THE BELGIAN

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Iceland - Operation ALABASTER

Sailed FRANCONIA, LANCASTRIA, escorted by FOXHOUND and
HAVANT for Operation Alabaster. Route. Expected arrive
17/5. (FOIC Greenock, 1940/14)

Situation report. 2 unidentified a/c's seen 13/5 (Vice Reykjavik
1930/14)

SUBJECT TO UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS, THAT THE SUPPLY OF LEATHER FOR THE REPAIRING TRADE WILL IMPROVE RATHER THAN DIMINISH."

B-2 --REUTER

13.44 ADDITIONAL BRITISH COAL FOR FRANCE. MAY 14.

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO SEND EXTRA QUANTITIES OF COAL TO FRANCE FROM THIS COUNTRY TO ATONE FOR THE LOSS OF BELGIAN AND NETHERLANDS IMPORTS BY FRENCH USERS.

INCLUDING THE EXTRA AMOUNTS THUS TO BE SHIPPED, SUPPLIES OF COAL FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO FRANCE WILL IN FUTURE BE TAKING PLACE AT THE RATE OF OVER 20 MILLION TONS A YEAR.

IN 1937, THE LOW COUNTRIES EXPORTED FIVE MILLION TONS OF COAL TO FRANCE, IN 1938 4.6 MILLION AND IN 1939 3.75 MILLION.

B-2 --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS.

16.5.40
~~Sunday~~
Tuesday.

SECRET

~~Precautions~~
Operations.
Tromso-Kirkenes.

DEVONSHIRE. Will cruise to northward of Tromso (? probably DEVONSHIRE 0759/14)

CS1 Proceed Tromso (FO Narvik 0920/14)

am complying with your 0920/14 arriving Tromso 0200/15. Consider A/S protection essential (FOC 1st CS 1744/14)

A/S Trawlers Your 1744/14. 3 A/S Trawlers should reach Tromso pm/15 (FO Narvik 2247/14 to FO1 CS)

ONE THOUSAND MILES - CHURCHILL SAID IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT A CERTAIN PROPORTION OF ENEMY SHIPS MANAGED TO RUN THE GAUNTLET AND STRIKING THE NORWEGIAN COAST IN THE FAR NORTH, WRIGGLE THEIR WAY DOWN THE 800 MILES OF TERRITORIAL WATERS WHICH CARRIES THEM INTO CLOSE PROTECTION OF THE MAIN GERMAN NAVAL AND AIR FORCES.

NEVERTHELESS THE MAJORITY OF GERMAN SHIPS THAT HAVE TRIED TO COME HOME HAVE EITHER SCUTTLED THEMSELVES AT SOME POINT ON THEIR JOURNEY, OR BEEN CAPTURED AS PRIZES. NOW AND AGAIN A RAIDER HAS BROKEN OUT, LAIN QUIET IN THE ATLANTIC, AND THEN CREPT BACK. THERE WAS ONE THAT DID NOT EVEN CREEP BACK.

CH-1 REUTER

16.45.

...4...HOUSE OF COMMONS (16.07)...

"THE ORDINARY MOORED MINES WERE FAMILIAR TO US IN THE

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

~~Narvik Area~~
~~Kirkenes~~ Tromso - Kirkenes

Your 1059/13 to CSI. In view of persistent reports of possibility that Germans may attempt to get footing in N. Norway either from Murmansk or sea and great risks they show themselves prepared to take in sending troops by sea DEVONSHIRE will remain under your orders to prevent any such operation.
C in C HF to give orders re retention of destroyers
(Vice SL 0059/14 to FO Narvik)

13.49 ADD 13.14 - THE SITUATION IN HOLLAND AND BELGIUM...

THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION OF THE GERMANS HAVING LANDED PARACHUTE TROOPS BEHIND THE BRITISH AND FRENCH LINES IN FRANCE AND REPORTS TO THIS EFFECT ARE NOT BELIEVED IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES. PARACHUTE TROOPS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO BE LANDED IN LARGE NUMBERS IN HOLLAND.

IT SEEMS LIKELY, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED, THAT THE GERMANS HAVE CAPTURED A NORTHERN FORT CALLED EMAEL. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LIEGE MAY BE ISOLATED. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT HAS FALLEN AND DESPITE GERMAN REPORTS THAT THE SWASTIKA FLEW OVER THE CITY YESTERDAY FIGHTING THERE IS STILL GOING ON. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT LIEGE ITSELF WILL FALL IN THE NEAR FUTURE BUT A GENERAL WARNING IS GIVEN AGAINST EXCESSIVE OPTIMISM.

THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION THAT THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN USING A

HOME COMMANDS. 14.5.40
Tuesday

SECRET

Operations
~~Norway~~ Narvik

Mines. Re. proposals to lay minefields off Tjeldsunder and Ofot Fiord. (RA Narvik 1931/13)

GERMAN MERCANTILE LOSSES UP TO APPROXIMATELY 790,000 GROSS TONS, REPRESENTING ABOUT 19 PER CENT OF THE GERMAN PRE-WAR TONNAGE. THESE LOSSES NOW NEARLY EQUAL THE BRITISH AND ALLIED LOSSES.

UP TO ~~WEDNE~~SDAY, 8TH MAY, 19,922 BRITISH, ALLIED AND NEUTRAL SHIPS HAD BEEN CONVOYED IN BRITISH CONVOYS WITH A LOSS OF 31 SHIPS BEING A LOSS RATIO OF ONE IN 642. A NEUTRAL SHIPS CONVOY TOTALLED 2,988 WITH THE LOSS OF THREE SHIPS OR A LOSS RATIO OF ONE IN 996. --REUTER

M-2

12.38 SECOND ADD 12.12 - BATTLE OF MEUSE BEGUN.

THE MOST REASSURING FACTOR IS THAT THE BULK OF THE BRITISH AND FRENCH FORCES ARE CONTINUING TO TAKE UP THEIR POSITIONS

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS. 14.5.1940
Operations. Tuesday.

~~227.~~ Your 2313/10~~th May not to all addresses.~~
Following action being taken. H.M.S. HAVELOCK H.M.S. BASILISK H.M.S. HESPERUS with defective A/S trawlers CAPE PASSARO and ST LOMAN sail with convoy to U.K. 14th May. H.M.S. WOLVERINE and ONDREYANT sail with CHROBRY from Bodo 15th May. H.M.S. WESTCOTT and H.M.S. VOLUNTEER released from duty here form part of escort for H.M.S. ARK ROYAL. Am retaining H.M.S. SOMALI H.M.S. FAME H.M.S. BRAZEN H.M.S. ECHO H.M.S. WREN H.M.S. WARWICK, plus H.M.S WHIRLWIND and H.M.S. VANSITTART for H.M.S. RESOLTUION.

(To Narvik 1607/14)

4 Destroyers the surrendered.

GLORIOUS
FURIOUS.

F.O. Narvik 1953/13. GLORIOUS and FURIOUS should be sailed accordingly. (DoD(H) 1210/14)

To sail for Vaags fiord area, escorted by VETERAN, VISCOUNT, WITHERINGTON, DIANA, as soon as ready so as to arrive Ofn. 18/5. (CinCHF, 1403/14)

To sail as arranged tonight Tuesday. R.A.D. to detail a destroyer to R.V. with GLORIOUS to take place of WITHERINGTON (CinCHF, 2037/14) AMAZON detailed (RADHF 2139/14) GLORIOUS + FURIOUS sailed 2130 (F.O. Narvik 2240/14)

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

Narvik.

~~Jik~~
~~Patch~~
Withdrawal of AA cruiser

Your 1117/14. Yes, by (corrupt group) further north which will mean fighter patrols will be very intermittent. HMS ROYAL will be down to 40% fuel by 18/5 and will not be able to operate long after that. Until fighter aircraft are established ashore do not consider risk of fuelling at Harstad can be accepted. Also boiler cleaning now overdue should be taken in hand shortly. (VAA. to C-in-C HF ...../.)

German landing at Hemnes

Reference landing of Germans by NORD NORGE at HEMNES. Request report what steps you consider practicable to prevent such action by Germans at sea in this area in future. (UCNS 0058/14 to Narvik)

Information received from reliable source to the effect that German Government having been refused permission to use Swedish railways for transport of arms and ammunition to Narvik are now sending daily considerable numbers of sealed trucks said to contain food supplies.

(J. Rothenburg 1559/14)

ZREQUESTED REPETITION:

13.11. U.S. REPORTS OF NAVAL ENGAGEMENT

.....NEW YORK, FEB 27.....UNCONFIRMED REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE "NEW YORK TIMES" FROM BERGEN, IN NORWAY, REFER TO A NAVAL ENGAGEMENT IN WHICH FRENCH AND BRITISH VESSELS MET TWO GERMAN SHIPS OFF PETSAMO.

THE REPORTS ADD THAT ACCORDING TO THE BERGEN "AFTENBLAD", TWO GERMAN FREIGHTERS HAVE BEEN SUNK BY ALLIED PATROL CRUISERS OUTSIDE NORWEGIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS OFF VARDOE. REUTER

CH-1

13.40 OILS MODERATELY ACTIVE. FEB 27.

MARKETS APPEAR TO BE DRIFTING RATHER AIMLESSLY.

A CERTAIN DULNESS IS TO BE NOTICED HERE AND THERE, BUT IT IS ENTIRELY DUE TO THE LACK OF ACTIVE INTEREST.

OILS CONTINUE TO DISPLAY MODERATE ACTIVITY, ATTOCK FURTHER

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Dutch coast (General)

Situation. Following from N.A., Hague :- The impression is that Holland will give up soon, possibly today. Fighting reported between the Hague and Hook.
(Capt (D) 16, 0658/14)

~~Flushing heavily bombed 13/5 and 14/5. Last.~~

Evacuation of Govt. VIVIEN with refugees, WINDSOR with Dutch Govt. and officials, Belgian and Norwegian legations, ~~etc~~ MOHAWK with British minister &c. and refugees expected to arrive Tilbury am/14. (C in C Nore 0035/14)

PERSEUS (with gold) expected to arrive Southend 1100/14. To proceed to Tilbury (C in C Nore 0107/14)

Dutch Naval Staff Dutch Naval C in C asks for destroyer off Scheveningen to evacuate Naval Staff at 1300 (Capt. D(16) 1112/14 to Capt. D 1.)

WESSEX Proceed to Dover. Report your passengers (Capt. D16 0849/14 to WESSEX.)

16.18 SCRAP COPPER IN U.S.

NEW YORK, MAY 14.: THE REFINERY BUYING PRICE OF SCRAP COPPER HAS BEEN REDUCED BY A QUARTER OF A CENT TO THE EQUIVALENT OF ROUGHLY 11.25 CENTS PER LB ON A REFINED BASIS. --REUTER

M-2

16.26 EGYPT TAKES PRECAUTIONS.

FURTHER REINFORCEMENTS FOR FLEET AT ALEXANDRIA

CAIRO, MAY 14: "EGYPT, FOREWARNED BY THE METHODS OF INTERNAL INVASION PRACTISED IN EUROPE BY THE ENEMY, STANDS READY TO MEET A SUDDEN ATTACK", IT WAS STATED IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES HERE TODAY.

IN VIEW OF THE COSMOPOLITAN POPULATION AND THE FACT THAT

SECRET

14.5.40

Home Commands

Operations

Dutch Coast – Flushing

Demolition. Demolition at Flushing is being efficiently carried out at present by German bombs. Flushing XD party now in Middleburgh. French military commander has his H.Q. there and party is working under his direction. Am also in close touch with Dutch naval authorities in Middleburgh and Flushing. (Con. Cazalet at Flushing, via KIMBERLEY no 500/13)

Intend to leave H.M.S. BRILLIANT and H.MS. BOREAS at West Hinder Buoy at 1830 G.M.T. and proceed Flushing in accordance with previous orders.

(WINCHESTER 1736Z./14)

OPSOMAVHERANDHEDNORWAY, MAY 14: ALLIED TR

BJERKVIK IN THE NARVIK REGION, ACCORDING TO A NORWEGIAN HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE ISSUED LAST NIGHT.

ALLIED AND NORWEGIAN FORCES, IT IS STATED, ARE ADVANCING SOUTHWARDS FROM GRATANGSEID, JUST NORTH OF NARVIK.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE:

"ON SUNDAY NIGHT JOINT ACTION TOOK PLACE TO CONQUER THE DISTRICT ROUND BJERKVIK, IN THE NARVIK REGION. ALLIED AND NORWEGIAN TROOPS HAVE ADVANCED SOUTHWARDS FROM GRATANGSEID AND THE MOUNTAINS, WHILE OTHER ALLIED TROOPS HAVE LANDED AT BJERKVIK COVERED BY WARSHIPS.

"THEY ARE ADVANCING NORTHWARDS AND EASTWARDS. FIGHTING CONTINUES.

"FROM SOUTH HAALOGALAND THERE IS NOTHING TO REPORT."

B-2 --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS.

SECRET

14.5.40

Dutch Coast - Operation Layter.

If blockships not needed request very early orders to move them to Spithead or elsewhere. Danger here that they might be sunk in harbour by air attack and block river Medway.
(C in C Nore 0956/14)

Your 0956. Spithead not acceptable until situation in Belgium is clarified. Suggest you anchor blockships in West Swin after searching sweep ~~for~~ of anchorage for magnetic mines has been carried out. Before FLORENTINO and BORODINO leave Medway they should be issued with administrative code (E), etc. CAROLINE MOLLER should be retained at Sheerness for transport of Combrs. Jupiter. Caley and Sheers. (OOD (H) 2253/14)

09.17. RETREATING FINNS BURN HOUSES

.....OSLO, FEB 28.....THE FINNISH FORCES ON THE ARCTIC FRONT, BEFORE WITHDRAWING TO NAUTSI, SET FIRE TO ALL HOUSES IN THE PATH OF THE ADVANCING SOVIET TROOPS, ACCORDING TO MESSAGES RECEIVED AT KIRKENES, ON THE FINNISH-NORWEGIAN FRONTIER.

THE FIGHTING DIED DOWN AS NIGHT FELL, AND THE FINNS ARE NOW MAKING A STAND IN THEIR NEW POSITIONS AT NAUTSI.

CH-1 REUTER

09.18. FATE OF VIBORG IN THE BALANCE

.....HELSINKI, FEB 28.....SOVIET PRESSURE AGAINST VIIPURI IS NOW BEING APPLIED ON AS WIDE A FRONT AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO DISCOVERY ANY WEAK POINTS IN THE FINNISH DEFENCES.

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations ~~Low Countries~~ X D A

14 ~~15~~.5.1940
~~Monday~~
Tuesday

X D A

Captain Davis landed. Amsterdam being evacuated. Have arranged to close harbour for more removals tonight Tuesday in view of magnetic mining and immediate air attack when ships enter harbour.
C.O Force X D A does not consider it justifiable to send Destroyers in for evacuation and has made arrangements to evacuate eventually with Dutch Force by local craft.

(HAVOCK 1505/14)

17.22 GERMANY AND THE LOW COUNTRIES

BERNE, MAY 14.: THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED SWITZERLAND TO ASSUME THE REPRESENTATION OF ITS INTERESTS IN THE LOW COUNTRIES.

IT IS LEARNED HERE THAT THE SWISS GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN ITS ASSENT TO THIS PROPOSAL AND THAT THE FEDERAL COUNCIL AT ITS SESSION TODAY DECIDED TO GIVE A FAVOURABLE REPLY TO THE DESIRE EXPRESSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REICH. --REUTER

M-2

17.24 BENGAL GOVERNMENT AND NEW JUTE CROP

CALCUTTA, MAY 14.: IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EAST INDIA JUTE

HOME COMMANDS

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

~~Questions~~
~~Hostilities~~ (continued) Operation X D

Operation X D

~~Coast~~.

Your 0915. All preparations being made as rapidly as possible. Dutch R.M. Commander Van Laenen says he is going to fight but undertake to make all preparations for demolition and will carry out operation on receipt of orders from Dutch C in C. Request 2 M T B's to evacuate last of demolition party (D16 1016/14 to N O i/c Dover)
Reply. 2 M T B's being sent (V A Dover 1152/14 & D16)

X D B

Following information from Captain Goodwin operation X D B. (i) Oil fuel on south side destroyed.

(ii) Destruction of Vegetable oil and every thing on North side stopped by Dutch Government.

(iii) 200 boxes of Gold sunk in Pilot steamer between Rotterdam and Hook.

(iv) Royal Engineers party arrived Hook.

(Capt. D16, 0929/14.)

Evacuation of demolition parties.

parties after general evacuation. Torpedoes are not to be carried.
(C in C Nore 1203/14 & D.O., Harwich)

'PETIT PARISIEN', ON THE EVE OF THE MAIN CLASH BETWEEN THE ALLIED AND GERMAN FORCES.

"IF THINGS DEVELOP AS A STUDY OF THE MAP OF THE BATTLE AREA WOULD LEAD ONE TO THINK", HE WRITES, "THE ALLIES WOULD NOT SEEM TO HAVE TO FEAR A FLANK TURNING MOVEMENT SUCH AS WAS CARRIED OUT BY VON KLUCK IN 1914 NEAR THE SEA, AND WHICH AT THAT TIME RESULTED IN A GENERAL RETREAT OF THE ALLIED ARMIES.

"YESTERDAY THE ALLIES IN THEIR MARCH FORWARD WERE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. THE KING OF THE BELGIANS AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE EXPRESSED THEMSELVES AS EXTREMELY SATISFIED WITH THIS FAVOURABLE DECVELOPMENT, WHICH IS OF CAPITAL INTEREST."

HITLER'S OBJECTIVE IN THE PRESENT OFFENSIVE IS TO LAND TROOPS ON THE ENGLISH COAST, ACCORDING TO ITALIAN MILITARY EXPERTS, AS REPORTED BY MADAME TABOUIS IN THE 'OEUVRE' THIS MORNING.

"HITLER" SHE WRITES, "IS SAID TO BE LITERALLY OBSESSED BY THE IDEA THAT IF HE COULD SUCCEED IN SERIOUSLY THREATENING THE BRITISH COAST HE WOULD GIVE A MORTAL BLOW TO THE ALLIES." -REUTER

SECRET

14.5.40

Dutch Coast - Rotterdam

Oil Stakes.

Admty. 2218/13, destruction of oil stocks at Rotterdam. General Heywood says this was done yesterday morning. (WHITSHED, 1810/14).

"GERMAN PLANES SUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED BRITISH WARSHIPS AND MERCHANTMEN IN BRITISH CONVOYS AT SEVERAL PLACES.

"ONE SHIP SANK IMMEDIATELY; OTHERS WERE SEEN ON FIRE; FOUR SHIPS WERE BOMBED SO HEAVILY THAT THEIR LOSS IS LIKELY.

"ON A NIGHT FLIGHT OVER NORTH-/23'5 %34.-,6 -, 3,3.6 0)-,3 RETURNED YESTERDAY MORNING VIA DUTCH TERRITORY NEAR THE TOWN OF NIJMEGEN".

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT NEWS HAS BE [redacted]RECEIVED IN LONDON OF AN ATTACK ON SHIPPING, BUT, IT IS ADDED, NO DAMAGE WAS DONE EITHER TO THE WARSHIPS OR THE SHIPS IN CONVOY.

R.A.F. FIGHTERS WENT UP BUT WERE UNABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY PLANES. --REUTER.

S-2

10

12.45 IMPORTS OF INDIAN YARNS. MCH 2.

OWING TO THE CONCENTRATION

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

SECRET

Dutch Coast
Rotterdam

Dutch Naval Staff believe attack on Moerdyk bridges by torpedoes fired from M.T.B.'s might cause heavy damage. (D.N.L.O. 0657/14) Passed to C-in-C Nore (D.C. 0720/14)

HOME COMMANDS.

14.5.40
Tuesday

~~MESSAGE.~~

~~2237/14th May.~~

~~SECRET.~~

~~IN.~~

~~From C. in C., Nore.~~

~~Date. 14.5.40.~~

~~Recd. 2350.~~

~~P/L BY T/P.~~

~~Addressed F.O.I.C. Harwich. GRAFTON. N.O.i/c Yarmouth.~~
~~Repeated Admiralty. V.A. Dover.~~

~~IMPORTANT.~~

4. GRAFTON is to ~~rendezvous one mile 270 degrees from~~ R.V. Aff L.V. Aldeburgh ~~light vessel~~ at 0500/15 with five or more M/S trawlers from Yarmouth. Trawlers to be escorted to Helder where they are to escort self propelled and tow dumb lighters approximately 20 in number containing submarine torpedoes to Harwich. Hoped that Dutch craft may tow majority of lighters.

(C in C Nore 2237/14 to FO i/c Harwich)

~~Advance copy sent Ops. & U.W.R.~~

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Hook &c.

14.5.40
Tuesday.

~~MESSAGE.~~

~~2229/14th May.~~

~~SECRET.~~

~~C.S.I.~~

~~To Admiral Nord~~
~~(at Dunkerque)~~
~~Repeated B.N.L.O. Boulogne~~
~~for French Admiralty~~

~~Date. 14.5.40.~~

Your 2204. Send destroyer in to ascertain conditions and bring off troops. Question of sending in transports is then at your discretion.

(NOIC Dover 2345/14 to Capt. D19)

With Reference to evacuation of Dutch Army we have already provided as many ships as can be made use of tonight.

Will inform you tomorrow regarding operation tomorrow night as soon as we know the situation.

(D/F 2229/14 to Admiral Nord at Dunkirk)

Dutch s/m's torpedoes

~~999~~ Early information about Lighters and Torpedoes very desirable. Which Destroyers go to Helder.

(C.in C. Nore 2222/14 to D 1)

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (A)

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Hook 14 (Contd)

14.5.40.
Tuesday

~~1844/14 May.~~

~~SECRET.~~ ~~M E S S A G E.~~ ~~IN.~~

~~From C.in C. Nore.~~ ~~Date 14.5.40.~~

After waiting half hour I sent in a boat and the Naval Staff were told to come down as quickly as possible, there were no signs of them 50 minutes later, am proceeding to rendezvous expect to arrive 2024.

(VIVACIOUS 1901/14. to Capt. D7)

Evacuation of Dutch troops.

990. My 1812 if possible have pilots waiting outside both ports from 0200. When you sail embark all troops possible. (C: C Nore 1844/14 to HAVOCK)

~~992.~~ HAVOCK's 1505.

Ships for evacuating very unlikely to reach Helder or Ymuiden before daylight.

(C: C Nore 1924/14. to Adty.)

Germans reported in Rotterdam I consider chances of embarking military from Hook and Scheveningen hazardous even if they wish to come which is most doubtful as they have capitulated. I am prepared to slip at any time will report later.

(Capt. D 19 2204/14 to VA Dover)

HOME COMMANDS. 14.5.40

~~182.~~ Part of Dutch Army are to be

Evacuation of Dutch Army tonight

embarked tonight Tuesday from the Hook and Scheveningen using Transports and Destroyers. CANTERBURY and KING GEORGE V will arrive rendezvous 1 Mile 270 from Charted Position Maas Light Vessel ~~ty~~ 0130/15 and 0230/15 respectively and are under your orders. At Hook if conditions allow, send one Transport in at a time, a destroyer being sent in beforehand to make arrangements including pilots. Destroyers should also be used to embark troops at Hook. Do what you can at Scheveningen using Destroyer and local craft. All arrangements are at your discretion. Acknowledge forthwith. (VA Dover 1825/14 to Capt. D 19)

(Intended to evacuate Dutch Army tonight.)

Cross Channel steamers MAID OF ORLEANS and MONAS QUEEN from Dover and perhaps MALINES from London are ordered to be 10 miles northwest of charted position of Maas Light at 0030. Divide them and your ships between Ymuiden and Helder and evacuate all possible fighting forces. You go Helder and deal with my 1539 and 1603 to VESPER. Destroyers are to enter first to arrange for pilots.

(C. in C. Nore 1812/14. to D1)

IMPACT OF A HURRICANE. THAT CLASH MAY COME AT ANY TIME NOW.

THE GERMANS HAVE PIERCED THE BELGIAN LINE AT ONE PLACE, THEY HAVE COME THROUGH IN FORCE AND THEY HAVE MUSHROOMED OUT BEYOND. INTO THIS OPERATION THE GERMANS ARE HURLING THE BULK OF THEIR EFFORT.

THERE HAVE BEEN TWO ENCOURAGING FACTORS ON THE ALLIED SIDE. THE FIRST IS THE WORK OF THE AIR COMPONENT WHO UP TO NOON TODAY HAVE POSITIVELY DESTROYED SIXTY-EIGHT GERMAN AEROPLANES AND PROBABLY BROUGHT DOWN ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE.

PILOTS AND CREWS OF AIR COMPONENT UNITS HAVE BEEN GOING "FLAT OUT" DAY AND NIGHT SINCE FRIDAY MORNING.

THE SECOND SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT HAS BEEN THE EXCELLENT STAFF WORK THAT ENABLED THE BRITISH ARMY TO SPEED ACROSS THE FRONTIER AND TAKE UP ITS POSITION ON THE BELGIAN FRONT AND THE FIRST CLASS PERFORMANCE OF THE DRIVERS AND THE MILITARY POLICE AND INDEED OF ALL CONCERNED IN DOING THE ACTUAL JOB.

REGARDING GERMAN TACTICS, THE AIR RAIDS AND THE USE OF PARACHUTE TROOPS HAVE BEEN THE CHIEF ELEMENT AND THE KEENEST WATCH HAS TO BE MAINTAINED EVERYWHERE FOR THESE SOLDIERS DROPPED FROM THE SKY AND OFTEN DISGUISED.

SUCH MEN WERE DROPPED TODAY AT A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE

[illegible] THEY WERE VARIOUSLY DRESSED

HOME COMMANDS,

14.5.40
Tuesday,

SECRET

Operations

Hook etc. (Cont'd.)

127. Remain in vicinity of Hook with destroyers not carrying troops or evacuees and await further instructions. Report names of destroyers then in company.

(VA Dover 1624/14. to D19)

Dutch s/m's torpedoes.

~~987.~~ Ref Admiralty's 1652. Sail trawlers as soon as possible, detailing a destroyer to escort them as far as entrance to Helder. ~~Continuous W/T watch is to be arranged between the two trawlers on 1780 kc/s, when escort has left.~~

Destroyer cruise towards Brown Ridge while waiting. Complete demolition essential if trawlers are lost.

(C.in.C Nore 1803/14 to Fo. Harwich.)

M.T.B 16.

reports Have embarked remaining British troops all British destroyers have left am sailing for Harwich. (C.in.C Nore 2000/14)

~~Your 1812/14 Request destination for trawlers~~

Troops When you sail embark all troops possible (C.in.C Nore 1844/14 to HAVOCK)

HOME COMMANDS. 14.5.40
Operations Tuesday,
Hook H. (Cont'd)

Evacuation of Guards.

Expect to arrive Dover 2100 14th May 350 Welsh and Irish Guards.

(VESPER 1600/14)

~~SECRET~~

Brown Ridge Patrol.

Your 1616 ~~H.M.S.~~ CODRINGTON ~~H.M.S.~~ HEREWARD and ~~H.M.S.~~ GRIFFIN available and now proceeding to Brown Ridge. My 1601 ~~H.M.S.~~ VIVACIOUS and ~~H.M.S.~~ VENETIA will also be available am ordering them to join me.

(Capt. D1 1721/14)

~~Address~~

~~From A~~

~~IMMEDIATE~~

Evacuation of Dutch ~~army~~ troops

My 1446/14. Dutch Authorities have been informed that opportunities for evacuation of Dutch troops will be available at ports tonight Tuesday. A ship should be sent to each of Helder Ymuiden Scheveningen and Hook if practicable and other ships should be standing by off ports to enter if conditions allow. If Dutch troops evacuate as many as possible should be embarked some overcrowding being accepted.

Place of landing at your discretion. (C. C Nore) (DOD(H) 1703/14 ~~to R~~

MUSSOLINI WHOSE OFFICE OVERLOOKS THE SQUARE. IN RESPONSE TO THEIR SHOUTS THE DUCE APPEARED ON THE BALCONY.

TWO PLATOONS OF TROOPS, A FEW MOUNTED CARABINIERI AND EXTRA FOOT POLICE HAD BEEN POSTED ROUND THE BRITISH AND FRENCH EMBASSIES BUT THE STUDENTS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO PASS THROUGH THE STREETS IMMEDIATELY PASSING THOSE BUILDINGS.

THERE WERE NO CLASHES BETWEEN MARCHERS AND POLICE AS EACH SIDE IS PERFECTLY AWARE OF THE TECHNIQUE OF ORGANISED "SPONTANEOUS" DEMONSTRATIONS.

THE NUMBER OF GERMAN VISITORS TO THE CAPITAL IS INCREASING RAPIDLY.

LORD HARDWICKE, A FRIEND OF SIGNOR BRUNO MUSSOLINI, THE DUCE'S SECOND SON, HAD HIS FACE SLAPPED LAST NIGHT AT A CABARET SHOW BECAUSE HE THREW OFF HIS TABLE ONE OF THE NOW NOTORIOUS ANTI-BRITISH POSTERS.

HE WAS THEN DETAINED FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS AT THE POLICE STATION BECAUSE IS PAPERS WERE NOT IN ORDER.

COPIES OF THE 'OSSERVATORE ROMANO' THE VATICAN

HOME COMMANDS 14.5.40
Operations Tuesday.

SECRET

Dutch s/m's torpedoes

~~977.~~ Prepare 8 M/S Trawlers to go Helder in Texal to tow lighters number unknown containing torpedoes believed to be sailing tonight. ~~H.M.S.~~ VESPER now proceeding Helder will conduct operation. Sail trawlers as ready and report times of departure. ~~W/T watch on 1780 kc/s.~~ (C.C.Nore 1643/14 to NOIC Yarmouth)

L.L. Trawlers LORD GREY and CLYTHNESS are to be sailed tonight. ~~They are~~ Urgently required at The Helder to release submarines and important naval stores and if practicable should proceed direct under escort or have protection provided from daylight tomorrow Wednesday. If operation at The Helder is impracticable they are to proceed to Zeebrugge and report to Commander Peterson. (~~C.in C.Nore~~ DMS 1652/14 to C.in C.Nore)

~~A/~~ Withdraws all the destroyers. Leave this in.

Return to Dover forthwith. Do not destroy Charges. (VA Dover 1701/14 to D76)

C. in C.Nore's 1616. Request available destroyers may join me in position CP. TS 3529. My expected time of arrival rendezvous 1930.

1809/14

NEWSPAPER, WERE AGAIN BURNED TODAY IN A PUBLIC SQUARE.

B-1 --REUTER

14.49 BELGIAN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE MAY 14.

THE BELGIAN HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT NOON TODAY STATES, ACCORDING TO BRUSSELS RADIO:

"THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS LOCAL ENGAGEMENTS AT DIFFERENT POINTS OF OUR POSITIONS. OUR TROOPS ARE RESISTING ENERGETICALLY THE PRESSURE OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES.

"DURING THE NIGHT ADVANCE ELEMENTS OF OUR TROOPS WERE

COMPELLED TO RETIRE." --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS. Operations 14.5.40 Tuesday

SECRET

Hook to (Capt).

~~C.C.~~ Urge Dutch Authorities imperative to sail submarines with ample torpedoes before port is lost. No sweepers can arrive today tomorrow very doubtful. We have no evidence of German Mines off Helder. Note Q Z X 55.

(C.C Nore 1632/14 to VESPER)

Have detached ~~H.M.S.~~ VIVACIOUS and ~~H.M.S.~~ VENETIA to Scheveningen to embark Dutch Naval Staff if there. Have ordered them to wait one hour to withdraw if attacked and to reestablish Brown Ridge patrol if staff not located. Am returning to Harwich with ~~H.M.S.~~ HEREWARD and ~~H.M.S.~~ GRIFFIN.

(Capt. D1 1601/14)

Cancel V.A. Dover's 1501. Report number of destroyers which have not been used for operation Ordnance and will be available for evacuation of part of Dutch army tonight probably from Ymuiden and Halden. These destroyers are to cruise off Brown Ridge until further orders. C.C Nore 1616/14 to Capt. D1)

ACCENTUATED WITH UNNECESSARY SUSPICION AND FEAR REGARDING THE JAPANESE AS A SEQUEL TO THE TENSE SITUATION RESULTING FROM THE EXTENSION OF THE EUROPEAN WAR."

THE DOMEI AGENCY QUOTES WHAT IT DESCRIBES AS TWO TYPICAL CASES OF MANY ANTI-JAPANESE INCIDENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. --REUTER

B-2

13.20 DUTCH HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE MAY 14.

THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE DUTCH HIGH COMMAND

HOME COMMANDS. 14.5.40
Operations. Tuesday
Hook etc.

SECRET

2 destroyers for Rosyth

C. in C. Rosyth's 1101/14. On completion of tonight's operation two destroyers are to be placed under orders of C. in C. Rosyth. These need not repetition not be A/A destroyers.

(VCNS 1500/14 to C in C Nore)

WINDSOR and VINEY detailed

Dutch C in C objects to demolitions

All troops and demolition parties embarked charges placed for demolition of wharves. Dutch C. in C. objects, have withdrawn demolition parties as this appears unimportant. Can torpedo dam if required. Intend to remain off Hook for the present.

(Capt. D16 1459/14)

Dutch subs torpedoes

~~974.~~ All spare torpedoes for Dutch Submarines are in Lighters at Helder. Imperative Dutch Authorities tow them to sea sending also maximum number of Torpedo Personnel. Will send Ship to Escort when they have sailed. (C in C Nore 1539/14 to HAVOCK, VESPER)

~~975.~~ My 1539. Proceed to Helder and expedite arrangements urgently.

(C in C Nore 1603/14 to VESPER)

Cancelled 1603 (C in C Nore 1715/14 to VESPER)

20.00 HOUSE OF COMMONS - BLOCKADE FEB 27.

ASKED TO WHAT EXTENT CONCESSIONS TO NEUTRALS TO IMPORT GOODS IN EXCESS OF THEIR OWN REQUIREMENTS INTERFERED WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE BLOCKADE; AND IF HE WOULD ADOPT A FIRMER ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE DEMANDS OF NEUTRAL COUNTRIES FOR SUCH CONCESSIONS, MR CROSS, IN A WRITTEN REPLY, SAID:

"IN SO FAR AS WE HAVE AGREED THAT NEUTRAL COUNTRIES MAY IMPORT SPECIFIC COMMODITIES IN EXCESS OF THEIR CURRENT REQUIREMENTS, WE HAVE DONE SO ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THEY ARE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE THAT THE STOCKS ACCUMULATED IN THIS WAY WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH THE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE BLOCKADE.

"THE SECOND PART OF THE QUESTION THEREFORE DOES NOT ARISE."

REPLYING TO A QUESTION AS TO THE KNOWLEDGE HE HAD OF IMPORTS OF WAR MATERIAL TO RUSSIA, MR CROSS SAID:

"RUSSIAN IMPORTS OF WAR MATERIAL, EXCEPT FROM GERMANY, APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY REDUCED IN RECENT MONTHS.

"IMPORTS OF CERTAIN RAW MATERIALS INCLUDING RUBBER AND COPPER DURING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER TO JANUARY WERE HOWEVER

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

SECRET

Hook- ~~Evacuation~~ (Contd)

Destroyers in harbours impress on all Dutch authorities the vital importance of wrecking before capture the ports of Ymuiden, Hook and any others that might be used as enemy naval bases, also evacuating all possible light craft and small steamers. They would otherwise be used by German Army. (C in C Nore 1220/14 to HAVOCK, MALCOLM, VESPER, VENETIA).

Operation ORDNANCE is to be carried out as soon as possible. Fighter protection will be afforded for 1½ hours each side of the time of sailing from Hook. (D.O.D.(H) 1228/14 to V.A., Dover)

CODRINGTON, HEREWARD, GRIFFIN expected time of arrival Maas L.V. 1345 assuming visibility does not deteriorate further (Dept. D.T. 1025/14)

WHITSHED, WHITLEY, WINCHESTER proceed into Hook forthwith. Expect to arrive 1420 (Capt D.T. 1251/14)

by 1319. Intend to embark all soldiers into destroyer alongside. (D.16, 1346/14) Approved. As many Dutch troops as possible to be given opportunity to leave if they wish (D.O.D. 1421/14).

When no longer required, D.1 and Harwich destroyers proceed to Harwich. (V.A., Dover, 1581/14)

~~From Admiralty~~. HOME COMMANDS. 14.5.40
Operations Tuesday.
~~IMMEDIATE~~ Hook H. (continued)

Following for HARPOON from War Office. Begins. Anxious that your battalion should not get too deeply committed and arrangements for yourre-embarkation tonight have been made.

In withdrawing your battalion it is important that as many Dutch troops as possible should be withdrawn too.

You should plan accordingly and unless situation is far different from what we suppose here and you can usefully maintain your position in conjunction with Dutch, your re-embarkation and that of as many Dutch troops as possible will take place tonight. Report urgently your intentions and in particular number of Dutch troops to be evacuated so that Royal Navy may complete their plans. Ends.

(DOS(H) 1415/14. & D.16)

N.O.i/c Dover's 1415/14~~th May~~. Present situation Marines and demolition parties on board ~~H.M.S.~~ MALCOLM alongside Hook. I have already sailed remainder of Guardsmen and Military Mission in ~~H.M.S.~~ WHITSHED and ~~H.M.S.~~ VESPER for Dover. Demolition of Wharf Fort and Breakwater not yet carried out charges laid.

(Capt. D/6 1501/14.)

95.41. " LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE REVIEW FEB 28.

BUSINESS THROUGHOUT THE SESSION WA RATHER PATCHY, BUT FIRMNESS CHARACTERISED MOST GROUPS.

AROUND MIDDAY A MODERATE DEMAND WAS ENCOUNTERED FOR GILT-EDGED, NOTABLY THE LONG-/-53 '59:(' -,$ 5£343 2-' - %99$ $3-) 9! ANIMATION IN KAFFIRS AS THE VARIOUS ITEMS ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUDGET BECAME KNOWN.

AMONG INDUSTRIALS, COLLIERY SHARES WERE SOMETHING OF A FEATURE, WHILE ELSEWHERE IN THE HEAVIES, JOHN BROWN WERE PROMINENT AT 34/6. THE PROVISIONS AND STORES SECTIONS WERE ALSO BETTER, HARRODS RISING TO 39/4-1/2.

HOME RAILS BECAME VERY QUIET AFTER THE FIRST FLURRY FOLLOWING THE SOUTHERN DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENT AND FINISHED UNDER BEST, SOUTHERN DEFERRED AT 20, LMS ORDINARY 20-1/2 AND GWR 47.

OILS WERE FIRM BUT IDLE.

COPPERS, HOWEVER, CAME IN FOR SOME ATTENTION, RHOKANA RISING TO 10-5/16.

IN THE FOREIGN MARKET, JAPANESE BONDS WERE FULLY MAINTAINED

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
~~Operation C. B. X.~~
Hook &c (contd.)

14
~~15~~.5.1940
~~Monday.~~
Tuesday

6 destroyers arriving 1500 are being AA (Capt. D19 ~~1004~~ 1101/14 to Capt. D16)

Operation Ordnance

my 1228. Operation Ordnance is not to take place (DOD(H) 1301/14 to VADover)

Cancel my 1216. Operation Ordnance is not to take place yet (VADover 1302/14 to D1, D19, D16)

Cancel my 1159 enter Hook forthwith (CS DKINGSTON 1317/14 to VIVACIOUS, VENETIA)

From Major General Hayward. Your 1302/. Withdrawal from Bridge Head started 1025 after heavy air attack. Half battalion embarked and sailed at 1300. Do you wish us to return? Heavy casualties likely.

(WHITSHED 1340/14 to F.O.C., Dover)

/ (Cancelling operation "Ordnance.")

Colonel of Guards reports impossible to withdraw here (Capt. D16 1319/14 to NOIC Dover)

Your 1302. Majority of Guardsmen have left (Capt. D16 1317/14 to NOIC Dover.)

Carry out Operation Ordnance that is evacuation forthwith (VADover 1415/14 to WHITSHED, D1, D19, D16)

WHITSHED arrived Hook (Capt. D16 1159/14)

1 SEE 2...

EET 2...HOUSE OF COMMONS - NEUTRALS AND TRADE WITH GERMANY.

"IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF SUCH
PORTS IS VITAL TO THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE NEUTRAL
UNTRIES CONCERNED; AND IN MANY CASES WE OURSELVES BENEFIT
OM SUCH EXPORTS TO AT LEAST AS GREAT, IF NOT A GREATER
GREE THAN GERMANY.

"EVEN IN THIS CLASS OF GOODS, HOWEVER, WE AIM AT
DUCING THE EXPORTS TO G[redacted]ANY AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE.

"THERE REMAINS A GROUP OF INTERMEDIATE CASES WHERE THE
UTRAL COUNTRY HAS A MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY DEPENDENT ON
PORTS OF RAW MATERIALS.

"THESE ARE THE MOST DIFFICULT CASES TO DEAL WITH; AND
R AIM IN IMPORTANT COMMODITIES HAS BEEN BY AGREEMENT
THER TO PREVENT ENTIRELY OR TO RESTRICT TO TRIFLING QUANTITIES
E EXPORTS TO GERMANY OF SUCH MANUFACTURES.

"THE DEGREE OF RESTRIITION NATURALLY DEPENDS ON THE

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Hook H. ~~Evacuation~~. (Cont.)

Destroyer Orders.

Raise steam and proceed with despatch to R.V. with WHITSHED in position 270 Maas light vessel 10 miles and stand by to carry out evacuation from Hook (C in C Nore 0853/14 to Capt (D) 1, GRIFFIN, HEREWARD, repeated F.O. Dover, Capt (D) 16, Capt (D) 19, WHITSHED and F.O., Harwich).

VIVACIOUS and VENETIA, 40 miles from Hook, are at your immediate disposal if needed. VESPER follows. (C in C Nore, 0838/14 to Capt (D) 16).

Ready to embark as soon as destroyer arrives. WHITSHED here now (Capt D 16 1241/14 to NOIC Dover)

VIVACIOUS and VENETIA are to be off Scheveningen at 1300 to be ready to evacuate Naval Staff at request of Dutch C in C. Join me on completion. (Capt (D) 1, to VIVACIOUS, 1159/14)

3 destroyers urgently required

Three destroyers urgently required, proceed with utmost speed (D16 1240/14 to Destroyers)

On arrival Hook D. 19 to take over from D.1. D.1 and those destroyers not in Hook should return to Harwich or as ordered by C in C Nore. (V.A., Dover 1244/14).

THE ORGANISATION OF THE NEW CORPS. --REUTER

M-2

16.16 WELSH TINPLATE ORDERS MAY 14.

ORDERS BOOKED BY WELSH TINPLATE MANUFACTURERS DURING THE WEEK ENDED MAY 4TH, TOTALLED 282,680 BASIS BOXES COMPARED WITH 297,388 THE PREVIOUS WEEK; OF THE FORMER TOTAL 118,901 WERE ON EXPORT ACCOUNT AGAINST 123,163.

UNFILLED ORDERS ON MAY 4TH TOTALLED 8,312,947 BASIS BOXES COMPARED WITH 8,492,553 THE PREVIOUS WEEK.

CANCELLATIONS OF ORDERS ON SCANDINAVIAN ACCOUNT AMOUNTED TO 55,836 BASIS BOXES. --REUTER

M-2

ON THE 6TH OCTOBER LAST SHAREHOLDERS WERE ADV

SECRET

14-5-1940
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Hook – Harpoon and Ordnance – (Evacuation)

Destroyers

Request 2 destroyers berth alongside quay astern of MALCOLM, town west, in case of evacuation and 2 A/A destroyers anchor in stream. (Capt (D) 16 to Capt (D) 19, 1001/14) VIVACIOUS and VENETIA to berth alongside quay astern of MALCOLM. (Capt (D) 16 1013/14)

If evacuation of Hook of Holland takes place, Capt (D) 16 will be in charge on shore and will call on you for destroyers as requisite.

(Vg. Dover. to Capt (D) 1, 0946/14)

Troops can fulfil no useful purpose.

From Heywood Mission. In view of political and military situation do not consider Irish Guards or Mission can fulfil useful purpose by remaining at Hook. Dutch C.S. states Rotterdam likely to fall this afternoon. W/T station out of action (D 16 1105/14 to V.A. Dover)

KEITH, BOREAS, BRILLIANT, WIVERN, VERITY, WOLSEY for duration "Ordnance" 0649 (V.A. Dover 0947/14)

~~MTB's Operations~~

~~Yacht 1076, 2 MTB's being sent (V.A. Dover 1152/14 to D 16)~~

Motor-Boats

First 4 destroyers are to leave motor boats and drivers in Hook for evacuation of small demolition rear-guards. Boats berth ahead of MALCOLM. (Capt (D) 16, 1116/14)

ASSOCIATION HAS RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL A REQUEST NOT TO OPEN TRANSACTIONS IN THE NEW JUTE CROP BEFORE JULY 1.

THE ASSOCIATION HAS INTIMATED ITS INABILITY TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUEST, SINCE TRANSACTIONS HAVE ALREADY COMMENCED.

M-2 --REUTER

CORRECTION:

IN...AMERICAS TO PROTEST (17.01)...PLEASE READ IN FIRST LINE OF SECOND PARAGRAPH:

.....SUGGESTED BY U R U G U A Y, ETC...

CH-1 REUTER

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Hook - Operations Harpoon (and Ordnance) (Evacuation).
(including part of Operation = XD)

Evacuation Preparations.

If necessary to evacuate Harpoon today fighter protection imperative.

Request preparations be made for this (V.A. Dover, 0629/14)

Ref. message despatched at 0030/14 from Heywood Mission, F.O., War Office, A.M., and Admiralty. V.A. Dover should make immediate arrangements for evacuation which may be required at short notice (OOD(H) 0536/14)

In event of Ordnance taking place, send destroyers wit Hook as requested by D.16 and sail them to Dover as loaded. MALCOLM is damaged and short of ammunition. She can only steam about 12 knots. You may have to take charge in shore. (V.A. Dover to D.19, 0622/14.

Have picked up Admiral Dickens off Scheveningen. WESSEX alongside Hook awaiting refugees. Visibility poor, shadowed by enemy aircraft. (Capt (D) 16, 0647/14)

No

Your 1203 (Northern Breakwater at Hook to be damaged by torpedoes and gunfire) arranged (Capt. D 16 1258/14)

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Ymuiden

14.5.40
Tuesday.

~~S E C R E T.~~ ~~M E S S A G E~~ 2339/14 May. IN 19

~~From. H.M.S. HAVOCK.~~ ~~Date. 15/5/40.~~

~~Recd. 0048.~~

~~Administrative Code E. By W/T.~~

~~Addressed. C.in C. Nore. H.M.S. HEREWARD. H.M.S. VENETIA.~~
~~N.O. i/c Harwich. Capt. (D) 1. Admiralty.~~

~~MOST IMMEDIATE.~~

Dutch Army in Ymuiden has surrendered.
Demolition programme completed. Am embarking what Dutch
I can from Fishing boats. Request H.M.S. HEREWARD
and H.M.S. VENETIA join me off Ymuiden to assist.
Understand situation is same all over Holland and
channel
suggest/steamers be returned. Will proceed towards
Harwich.

~~Following from~~ S~~enior~~ O~~fficer~~ 3rd Motor Torpedo
reports
Boat Flotilla ~~good enough.~~ coming out tonight about 2200.
Please meet him off harbour Ends. (C.in C Nore 2313/14th HAVOCK)

~~1st Lord.~~
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S
A.C.N.S.

T12.45 MENTAL HOSPITAL ABLAZE NEAR ANTWERP.

ANTWERP, MAY 10: AS A RESULT OF AN AERIAL BOMBARDMENT
A MENTAL HOSPITAL AT MORTSEL, SOUTH OF ANTWERP, IS IN FLAMES.
S-1 --REUTER.

12.46 ADD 12.02 - SWISS MOBILISE.

HOME COMMANDS

14.5.40
Tuesday

SECRET

Operations
Ymuiden

Situation — at Ymuiden in hand and confidant. Atty. 2217/13 now being swept. Magnetic mines inside harbour. ~~Considerable casualties~~ Considerable local disturbance Amsterdam 13/5. Consulate evacuated to Ymuiden today. VICEROY entered night 12/13. No developments expected here for some days. (VESPER 1000/14)

VESPER — Proceed to Ymuiden and deliver admty. messages 2146/13, 2147/13, and 2217/13 which are being passed to you now to their addresses. While there try and obtain news of M.T.B.'s working in Zuyder Zee from Amsterdam and then return to patrol. (C-in-C, Nore, to VESPER, 0255/14)

~~Amsterdam~~

Your 1812/14 Request destination for troops from Ymuiden (HAVOCK 2126/14) Reply Tilbury (C-in-C Nore 2159/14)

Your 1812 have encountered H.M.S. HAVOCK and have ~~detached~~ her to Ymuiden and H.M.S. VIVACIOUS to HELDER to make all preparations. H.M.S. VIVACIOUS will deal with your 1539 to H.M.S. VESPER and your 2029

Consider it imperative that adequate fighter patrols should be over HELDER at dawn to protect ships whilst embarking and escort them on passage.

(Capt. D, 2154/14 to C-in-C Nore)

THE DUTCH MINISTER TOLD REUTER THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE A FIXED RESIDENCE IN ENGLAND SIMILAR TO THE POLISH GOVERNMENT AT ANGERS BUT THEY ALL HOPED THAT THE BRAVE RESISTANCE OF THEIR TROOPS WITH ALLIED HELP WOULD SOON MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO RETURN TO HOLLAND.

THE DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER, M. VAN KLEFFENS, SPENT SOME TIME WITH LORD HALIFAX THIS MORNING.

THE DUTCH MINISTER IN LONDON SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD EVIDENCE THAT THE GERMAN ARMY WERE TRYING TO ENCIRCLE THE DUTCH CAPITAL AND TO TAKE THE QUEEN AND THE CABINET PRISONERS. THIS HAD TO BE PREVENTED AT ALL COSTS. THE FIRST INTENTION WAS FOR THE QUEEN TO GO INTO ZEELAND, A PROVINCE WHICH WAS VERY STRONGLY DEFENDED, BUT WHILE THE QUEEN AND SOME OF HER COUNCIL WERE JUST ABOUT TO SET SAIL FOR THIS DESTINATION IT BECAME KNOWN THAT THE GERMANS ALREADY KNEW WHERE SHE WAS GOING AND THAT THEIR AEROPLANES WERE DROPPING BOMBS THERE IN ADVANCE OF HER ARRIVAL.

B-2 --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations
~~Hdqrs~~ Helder – Texel – Zuider Zee.

14.5.40
Tuesday

SECRET

Asking for air bombardment of the ~~Hdqrs~~ air base at Wieringen. Impossible for any ships to get near enough to bombard Germans at present. (C in C Nore 1045/14)

~~Asking for bombardment by Allied destroyer to assist in defence of Barrier dykes (Hague No 1.0. Rec 1745/40)~~

WAVE AFTER WAVE OF RUSSIAN ATTACKS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED AGAINST THE FORTIFIED ISLANDS IN THE GULF OF FINLAND AND ALONG THE ENTIRE KARELIAN ISTHMUS.

THE FATE OF VIIPURI IS IN THE BALANCE. THE FINNS ARE STILL STANDING FIRM AND THE SOVIET TROOPS ARE STATED TO HAVE SUFFERED ENORMOUS LOSSES IN MEN AND MATERIAL. EIGHTEEN RUSSIAN TANKS WERE DESTROYED ON MONDAY. REUTER

CH-1

09.20 ROOSEVELT'S ENVOY LEAVES ROME.

ROME, FEB 28: MR SUMNER WELLES LEFT ROME SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT BY TRAIN FOR ZURICH ON HIS WAY TO BERLIN.

HE WILL SPEND TONIGHT IN ZURICH AND CONTINUE HIS JOURNEY TO THE GERMAN CAPITAL TOMORROW MORNING.

MR WELLES IS ACCOMPANIED BY MR KENNAN, SECRETARY AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BERLIN, WHO HAD COME TO ROME TO MEET HIM. --REUTER

B-2

HOME COMMANDS. SECRET

~~Air~~

14
~~13~~.5.1940
~~Monday.~~
Tuesday

~~Enemy Air Activity~~. Movements

18th A/S SF	Arty. 1630/30/4, 2052/13. 18th A/S SF sailed for Scapa am/12 in accordance with Arty's 1849/11 (FOIC Greenock 1103/14)

13.21 SECOND ADD HOUSE OF COMMONS 12.15

AFTER THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP HAD REPEATED THE PRIME MINISTER'S ASSURANCE THAT, IF NECESSARY, THE HOUSE WOULD BE CALLED TOGETHER BEFORE MAY 21ST, MR CLEMENT DAVIES WITHDREW HIS AMENDMENT. --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS

SECRET

14-5-40
Tuesday.

Movements.

CURLEW — Is required to go to Mediterranean at once and cannot be relieved for about 10 days. Can you do without an A/A cruiser in meantime? (CinCHF to R.A.(A) 1117/14).

REUTER

M-2

16.42 PEACE NEGOTIATIONS TO FOLLOW FALL OF VIBORG ?

STOCKHOLM, MAR 2.: A MESSAGE FROM TALLINN TO THE NEWSPAPER AFTONBLADET SAYS THAT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH A PROPOSAL FOR AN ARMISTICE MAY BE EXPECTED, IF AND WHEN VIBORG FALLS, ACCORDING TO THE RUSSIAN PRESS.

THE CAPTURE OF THIS IMPORTANT BORDER FORTRESS WOULD BE REGARDED AS A SYMBOL OF RUSSIAN VICTORY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF "FINLAND'S HOPELESS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GLORIOUS RED ARMY."

IT IS CONSIDERED IN RUSSIA THAT ONCE FINLAND'S STRONGEST FORTRESS HAS FALLEN THE FINNS CAN DO NOTHING BUT CAPITULATE.

M-2 --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS. SECRET 14.5.1940
~~Movements~~ Tuesday.
Policy

to

Your 0248, I suggest situation demands in first place air reconnaissance followed by air attack if enemy starts crossing. I would at once consider sending a destroyer to Bergshuis ~~if~~ to assist if crossing is attempted MTB's would be useless (Ci(Nore 0359/14 to Admty.) Passed to Air Ministry (Ops., 0514/14)

Destroyers overworked.

968. Reference C. in C. Rosyth's 1101. I am very anxious to reduce passenger trips to Holland and non-fighting commitments so that Rosyth can be helped and more destroyers can get rest.

(C. in C. Nore 1305/14.)

12.31 31 GERMAN MERCHANT VESSELS SEIZED IN DUTCH INDIES

MAY 14.: IT IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT ONLY ONE BRITISH SHIP OF ABOUT 6,000 TONS WAS SUNK BY ENEMY ACTION DURING THE WEEK ENDED SUNDAY-MONDAY, 5-6 MAY. THERE WERE NO ALLIED OR NEUTRAL LOSSES.

THE GERMAN SHIPS CAPTURED AND SUNK, ETC., FROM THE PERIOD MAY 6-11, AND INCLUDING THOSE SEIZED BY THE DUTCH IN DUTCH EAST AND WEST INDIES, WERE 31 IN NUMBER, WITH A TONNAGE OF 171,049. IN ADDITION, A NORWEGIAN SHIP OF 1,991 TONS, BEING USED AS A TRANSPORT BY THE GERMANS, STRUCK A MINE OFF NORWAY AND SANK.

THE TOTAL GERMAN MERCANTILE TONNAGE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED OR SUNK NOW AMOUNTS TO APPROXIMATELY 625,000 GROSS TONS. A FURTHER 165,000 GROSS TONS MAY BE ADDED FOR SHIPS SUNK BY ALLIED ACTION BUT WHOSE NAMES AND EXACT TONNAGE IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN SO FAR. THIS WILL BRING THE TOTAL

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
~~Operations.~~

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Precautions.

Lympne — O/C. Lympne aerodrome wishes to deny landing ground to enemy a/c by placing obstructions on surface. (D.A.M., 1367/40, & Air Ministry)

SOUGHT TO BELITTLE THE ENTERPRISE IN NORWAY.

THERE HAVE BEEN NO POLEMICS IN THE SWEDISH PRESS AGAINST BRITAIN, THE PAPER SAYS, BUT SIMPLY A STATEMENT OF THE FACTS. THEN REFERRING TO MR CHAMBERLAIN'S EXHORTATION TO PREPARE BEFORE FRESH TRIALS COME, THE PAPER CONCLUDES: "WE ARE BEST HEARTENED BY CONTINUING TO STRENGTHEN OUR PREPARATIONS FOR DEFENCE."

A M S T E R D A M

IT IS GENERALLY FELT THAT THE SPEECH CONTAINED NOTHING TO MAKE THE NEUTRALS RADICALLY ALTER ANY OF THEIR PREVIOUS JUDGMENTS. HIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO BE ENTRUSTED TO MR CHURCHILL ARE REGARDED AS FALLING SHORT OF WHAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED.

'HET VOLK' EXPRESSED A WIDESPREAD FEELING IN HOLLAND THAT MR CHAMBERLAIN HAS SO FAR BEEN "MORE SUCCESSFUL IN THE POLITICAL ARENA THAN ON THE BATTLEFIELD."

Z U R I C H:

IT IS FELT HERE THAT MOST OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH THE

Home Commands 14-5-40
Tuesday.

Precautions.

SECRET

Key 1948/15/4. In view of enemy fifth column activities the possibility is pointed out that a vessel purporting to carry refugees may enter a small port and land an organised force. (D.T.D., 2157/13 to C.-in-C.'s & G.O.'s)

Details of precautions to be taken (Air Min. 1833/14)

Location of all open spaces within 5 miles of Fleet Air Arm aerodromes to be reported (D of L.D 2033/14)

Coast defences — Dover (V.A.Dover 1305/14) Harwich, Lowestoft (D.M.O. 1645/14)

~~X.000~~ A case has occurred of aircraft bearing Dutch markings behaving in a suspicious manner off British Coast.

RYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRY.

REUTERS TESTING

RYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRY

RYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRY

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 1234567890

T10.33 £10,000,000 SAVING ON LCC WORKS. MCH 2.

THE L.C.C. FINANCE COMMITTEE ESTIMATES THAT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ON ITS OWN WORKS WILL BE NEARLY £10,000,000

War Diary. Situation Report. SECRET 14.5.1940 Tuesday.

Norway.

GLORIOUS and FURIOUS sailed from the Clyde at 2100/14 for the Narvik area, screened by 4 destroyers. They are to operate within 200 miles from the coast of Norway from 18/5.

DEVONSHIRE is patrolling off Tromso to prevent any German landing in the extreme north.

~~It is~~ It is understood that enemy reinforcements are still being transported regularly to the North by troop carrying a/c's. (IC.0451/40)

The Allied Force is now constituted and moving forward to Narvik. More troops have landed at Bodo.

Iceland.

FRANCONIA and LANCASTRIA left the Clyde at 2000/14 with troops for Iceland, to relieve the Royal Marines.

Gibraltar.

5 AMC's are being sent to operate against shipping off the coast of Portugal.

Mediterranean.

~~5 AMC's have sailed for the Gibraltar area.~~

Although it is not considered that war with Italy is likely to break out in the very near future ~~preparations~~ preparations ~~are~~ a number of being made actively. An A/A cruiser, ~~&~~ 12 destroyers, ~~4 A/C's~~ and 3 sloops are preparing to sail for the Mediterranean.

Casualties. GRENADE has been hotly shot about the water line by collision with a trawler in fog.

VERSATILE (damaged 13/5) ~~has arrived~~ in harbour 1900/14.

~~DORIS (Rosyth) which has been docked~~

(13)

16.03 STALIN DISPOSES OF ILLNESS RUMOURS

MOSCOW, MAR 2.: RUMOURS CURRENT IN SCANDINAVIA AND ROME THAT STALIN WAS S RIOUSLY ILL WERE SUMMARILY DISPOSED OF LAST NIGHT WHEN HE ATTENDED A BALLET PERFORMANCE. --/437534

M-2

16.15 WALL STREET OPENS STEADY

NEW YORK, MAR 2.: THE TONE AT THE OPENING WAS STEADY.

SECRET

Situation Report. 14.5.1940
~~Low Countries~~ Holland Tuesday.

North
~~Hook~~. The R.M. and demolition party were successfully evacuated (from the Hook)
Holland this morning by MALCOLM, and the Guard battalion in
VESPER and WHITSHED. Visscher was provided. The M.T.B's which have been operating
in the Zuider Zee left, having embarked the remaining British troops in that area
~~Hook~~. ~~evacuated as provided~~.
WINDSOR, MOHAWK and VIVIEN evacuated the Dutch Govt.
and officials with the British, Belgian and Norwegian
Legations ~~and~~, with 400 refugees, from Hook last night,
and landed them at Tilbury.

+

~~Amsterdam~~. The destruction of the oil supplies at Amsterdam was
carried out. Orders were given for the Northern Breakwater
~~to be~~ at the Hague to be sufficiently damaged to ensure
the silting up of the harbour entrance and for other
~~Dutch ports to be~~ Dutch ports which the enemy
might use as Naval bases, to be wrecked.

Belgium.

The British minesweepers have left Flushing and
are operating with the French at Zeebrugge.

A VILLAGE WHICH HAD FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY WAS REOCCUPIED FOLLOWING COUNTER-ATTACKS LED BY BELGIAN UNITS AND SUPPORTED BY ALLIED TANKS.

IN THE COURSE OF THE OPERATIONS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS CERTAIN INFANTRY, CYCLIST, FRONTIER AND CHAUSSEURS ARDENNAIS UNITS HAVE PARTICULARLY DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES, HAVING FULFILLED THEIR TASK WITH COURAGE AND GREAT BRAVERY.

THE CREW OF A BELGIAN AEROPLANE BROUGHT DOWN ON TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY THE ENEMY SUCCEEDED IN REJOINING OUR POSITION BY MAKING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE GERMAN LINES.

D U T C H.

THE DUTCH RADIO BROADCAST A COMMUNIQUE OF THE DUTCH HIGH COMMAND AT MIDNIGHT, THE MAIN POINTS OF WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

IN A SMALL SECTOR THE ENEMY REACHED THE RHINE. DUTCH TROOPS REPELLED HIM BUT COULD NOT MAINTAIN THEIR POSITIONS IN THIS SECTOR.

IN THE NORTH PROVINCE THE ENEMY FORTIFIED HIS POSITIONS.

ONE GERMAN DETACHMENT HOLDING POSITIONS IN THE SOUTH

SECRET

14 J-40

Education Report

Holland.

Arrangements were made to evacuate the Dutch troops during the night. Dutch proclamation broadcast from Hilversum tonight, Tuesday, that Germans commenced to bombard Rotterdam and threatened to blow it in pieces and the Hague, unless the Dutch gave in. Dutch C in C issued an order that the soldiers were to cease fighting but retain their arms and keep order in Rotterdam and the Hague until German troops arrived to take over. Broadcast is believed to be genuine. (D.C. 2326/14)

~~Preparations had been made to evacuate the Dutch troops during the night 14/15, and all available warships and other steamships were standing by to carry out the operation.~~

THE GERMANS MADE A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT EFFORT IN THE BELGIAN ARDENNEL WHERE THEY ACHIEVED SOME PROGRESS.

OUR CAVALRY ELEMENTS (LIGHT MECHANISED UNITS), HAVING FULFILLED THE DELAYING ACTION WITH WHICH THEY WERE CHARGED, FELL BACK ON THE MEUSE WHICH THE ENEMY REACHED AT ONE POINT.

THE ENEMY EXERTED STRONG PRESSURE ON LONGWY. HIS ATTACKS WERE REPUSLED AS WERE THOSE LAUNCHED EAST OF THE MOSELLE AND IN THE REGION OF THE SAAR.

NOTHING TO REPORT ON THE RHINE.

ALLIED AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT CONTINUED THEIR ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THEIR LAND FORCES, ATTACKING THE ADVERSARY'S COLUMNS.

FIFTEEN ENEMY AIRCRAFT WERE SHOT DOWN DURING THESE ENGAGEMENTS.

BEHIND THE LINES ENEMY AIR ACTION THOUGH REPEATED CAUSED ONLY DAMAGE OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE FROM THE MILITARY POINT OF VIEW.

B E L G I A N.

OUR TROOPS WERE ENGAGED IN HARD FIGHTING ALL DAY. EVERYWHERE THEY OFFERED FIERCE RESISTANCE TO THE ENEMY.

SECRET

14.5.1940
Tuesday.

Situation Report.

Holland. (1630/14)

Situation in Holland has continued to deteriorate. Dutch are now cut off from allies in the South. Owing to dispersal of Dutch troops south of the Maas and withdrawal of Allied covering forces to the Dutch-Belgian frontier area an attack from NE against Antwerp may develop.

All units of the German Air Force long range bomber force have now taken part in the operations on the Western Front with the exception of 2 geschwader. 2 of the 10 long range bomber-reconnaissance gruppen are now known to have been engaged. 3 of the 11 short range dive-bomber gruppen are now thought to be engaged.

Scale of bombing attack in Holland has been intense. In France the number of attacks has diminished. This indicates major air effort is in the north to support the break-through of the army. Unofficial estimate for 13/5 of British fighter losses compared with enemy aircraft confirmed losses is nearly one to four in our favour. (D.N.I. 2252/14)

Following instructions have been issued by Army Commander-in-Chief, Home Forces:-

"In view of the German action in Holland in landing German troops in British uniforms by parachute or troop carrying aircraft any men so dropped in this country should be treated as enemy and at once engaged by the nearest troops with all available weapons and with the utmost ruthlessness. Speed is the essence of the problem. This does not apply to individual airmen making a forced descent by parachute from damaged aircraft. All troops on actual protection duties as directed by General Officers Commanding-in-Chief Commands will act as if in contact with the enemy maintaining constant vigilance and standing to at dusk and dawn."

(A Stg. 1013/13, General Message 576A)

Casualties. At 8.45 pm 13th VERSATILE was bombed and hit while patrolling the Dutch coast. Her engine room and after boiler room are flooded. JANUS has taken her in tow, and has her wounded with casualties from the Irish Guards at the Hook, on board. Two tugs will relieve JANUS.
MALCOLM reports damage to her starboard propeller.
KELLY arrived in the Tyne at 1531 in tow, escorted by 4 destroyers and a/c's.

"HIS SPEECH WAS A MASS OF CONTRADICTION."

M E L B O U R N E

IN A STATEMENT MADE HERE THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION DECLARED THAT WHATEVER THE POLITICAL REACTION OF MR CHAMBERLAIN'S FRANK SPEEDH THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MR CHURCHILL IS TO CONTROL THE ARMED FORCES GIVES GENERAL SATIS-FACTION.

S Y D N E Y:

INTENSE INTEREST IS BEING SHOWN IN AUSTRALIA IN THE COMMONS DEBATE. THE FIRST REACTIONS APPEAR CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THE TENDENCY IN MANY QUARTERS IS TO DEFER FINAL JUDGMENT UNTIL THE DEBATE HAS BEEN CONCLUDED.

B-2 --REUTER

CASUALTIES + DEFECTS

13-5-40
Monday.

SECRET

WILD SWAN — Broken blade of starboard propeller. (U.A. Dover, 1646/13)

KELLY — Arrived with D.5 in tow of rescue tugs WATERMEYER and BRAHMAN. (FOIC Tyne, 1721/13) TL's congratulate D5, C-C Rosyth, CS18, BIRMINGHAM, BULLDOG, KANDAHAR, GALLANT, FURY, WATERMEYER, BRAHMAN on their determined and successful effort (1st SL 2325/13)

BUSSUM — Dutch 3636 tons, damaged by bombs and in tow of HARRIER towards N. Goodwin. (U.A. Dover 1316/13) (VENOMOUS, 0015/14)

HAMLA — S.S. Main boiler believed gone, abandoning ship, 50° 3' N, 00° 27' W. (HAMLA via Niton, Isle of Wight, 2321/13). S.O.S. cancelled, require assistance. (Niton W/T, 0116/14)

CABENDA — Breakdown, expected to get under weigh shortly (C-C WA 2146/13)

11.34 GERMAN DEFENCE LINE ON DANISH FRONTIER

PARIS, FEB 26: GERMANY IS AT PRESENT WORKING ON SOME SORT OF DEFENCE LINE SOUTH OF THE DANISH FRONTIER IN SOUTH JUTLAND, IT IS LEARNED HERE FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE.

THE LINE IS TO BE DUG FROM EAST TO WEST AND WILL BE SITUATED GENERALLY ABOUT NINE OR TEN MILES SOUTH OF THE FRONTIER.

AT THE EASTERN EXTREMITY, HOWEVER, THE LINE WILL RUN SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF FLENSBURG WHICH IS ITSELF A FEW MILES INSIDE THE FRONTIER.

A FEW DAYS AGO THE INHABITANTS OF THE AREA BETWEEN THE BORDER AND THE NEW DEFENCE SYSTEM WERE NOTIFIED THAT THEY SHOULD BE READY TO EVACUATE THEIR HOMES AT A FEW HOURS WARNING, IF THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND THOUGHT IT NECESSARY.

THERE ARE ABOUT 10,000 DANES IN GERMAN TERRITORY ADJACENT TO DENMARK AND MOST OF THEM LIVE IN THE AREA AFFECTED BY THE ORDER.

SECRET

1 3.5.1940
Monday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

VERSATILE. JANUS with VERSATILE in tow will be in position C P T S 0429 at 0400 Tuesday 14/5. Urgently request air escort. ~~XJSA~~ (JANUS, 2250/13)
(VERSATILE was bombed off Hook, 2045/13)

JANUS is taking VERSATILE in tow. VERSATILE has one boiler room and engine-room out of action. ~~Reqds~~ Request she may be met by tug at daylight. JANUS has wounded from VERSATILE on board and Irish Guards.
(Capt. D.16, 2140/13)

T

16.09 "EXTREMELY VIOLENT" NAZI AIR RAIDS.

STOCKHOLM, MAY 3: "EXTREMELY VIOLENT" AIR ACTIVITY BY THE GERMANS IS REPORTED TODAY BY THE 'AFTONBLADET'S' CORRESPONDENT IN NORTH TRONDELAG, NORTH OF TRONDHEIM.

TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION WITH SWEDEN WAS CUT OFF OWING TO THE RAIDS HE SAYS.

SANDOLAG, EAST OF NAMSOS, IS STATED TO HAVE BEEN THE PLACE WORST AFFECTED. --REUTER

B-1

13.5.40

German Merchant Ships.

Monday

SECRET

Home Commands.

CAMPINAS. (4541 tons) French source reports she was mined 10/5 2 miles S of Drogden. This has also been reported in Swedish press on 13/5 which states that ship sank (IC 0449/40, Reuter, Stockholm) (Stockholm 1307/13)

ANHALT (5870 tons) Same French source states that a large German transport was transferred at Malmo. Swedish press stated 13/5 that ANHALT was aground but was refloated (IC 0449/40 Reuter, Stockholm)

STUTTGART (13,387 tons) Swedish press 13/5 states a German vessel of "25,000 tons" with makeshift red cross on funnel entered Swedish territorial waters at Gothenburg and was stopped by a Swedish destroyer. (STUTTGART was reported going to Oslo 1914 as a hospital ship) (IC 0449/40, Reuter, Stockholm.)

Dutch East Indies.

No further information. Press, however, reports all German ships have been seized and crews interned.

13.00 WAR CABINET

MEMBERS OF THE WAR CABINET AND CHIEFS OF STAFF MET AGAIN AT NO. 10 AT 11.30 THIS MORNING. THERE WAS AGAIN A FULL ATTENDANCE.

RB-2 -- REUTER.

13.01 1$75:£ .8,8'534')3-;3 !94)9,$9,. MAY 10.

THE DUTCH MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COLONIES HAVE LEFT FOR LONDON TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ALLIES, ACCORDING TO A HILVERSUM RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT THIS MORNING.

S-1 --REUTER.

13.5.40

SECRET

S/m's reported.

0735. COVENTRY reported submerged U boat off Skjelfjord approx. 68°N 13°15'E. AZ (IC.0450/40)

1100 & 1233 By fishermen 55°24'N 6°27'W, course W. D4 (ICp450/40) [DOIC Belfast, 1315/13)

1830 58°10'N 6°10'W P/S and C/T sighted by civilian course E. D3 (IC.0450/40)

2100 53°17'N 5°20'W sighted by shore course NE. D5. (IC.0450/40)

1303 50°15' N, 6°56' W, vessible fire. VANQUISHER 6 attack (CinCWA 1509/13) (see attacks)

Estimated dispositions — no deductions possible (DDIC 1135/13)

8

10.01 DUTCH COMMUNICATIONS INTACT MAY 10.

IT WAS STATED AT THE DUTCH LEGATION AT NINE THIS MORNING:

"WE ARE STILL IN COMMUNICATION BY TELEPHONE WITH THE HAGUE AND AMSTERDAM."

DUTCH RADIO IS BROADCASTING NEWS OF THE FIGHTING REGULARLY.

M-2 --REUTER

10.02 MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY ANNOUNCEMENT MAY 10.

THE MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT

"IN THE LIGHT OF THIS MORNING'S EVENTS IN HOLLAND AND BELGIUM

UBOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING 13.5.40
Monday

Ships attacked

SECRET

S S VAN RENSSELAER — Dutch 4141 tons
Lanner 8230/13 inside outer harbour of Ymuiden (IC 0449/40) Reported 0130/13 that she hit a mine while "inside the north pier" (? at Amsterdam where she arrived 8/5)
(FO Humber 0350/13, VIMY 0400/13)
Reported aground inside the outer harbour, 5 passengers missing.

SALLY — Finnish, mined in fairway north of Helsingfors am. 11/5. (Stockholm, 1307/13)

TO LAND AND IN SOME PLACES HAVE DROPPED PARACHUTE TROOPS.
THE PLANES TRYING TO LAND PARTLY FAILED AND THE PARACHUTISTS,
OF WHOM A PARTY WERE DRESSED IN UNIFORMS OF THE DUTCH ARMY,
WERE SURROUNDED AND ARE BEING WIPED OUT.

"OVER SEVERAL TOWNS GERMAN PLANES DROPPED PAMPHLETS
CONTAINING FALSE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOLLOW THREATS AGAINST
THE CIVIL POPULATION. THE HIGH COMMAND WARNS THE WHOLE
NETHERLANDS POPULATION NOT TO TRUST SUCH PRONOUNCEMENTS
WHICH ARE ONLY MADE TO CAUSE TROUBLE AND URGES THE PEOPLE
OF THE NETHERLANDS TO CONFIDE SOLELY IN THE FIRMNESS WITH
WHICH THE NETHERLAND FORCES, WHO ARE EXALTED AND INSPIRED
BY THE QUEEN'S OWN DEEDS AND WORDS, ARE DEFENDING THE
DUTCH TERRITORY". -REUTER.

S-1

FOREIGN STATIONS

SECRET

13, 5. 40
Monday

East Indies

USS asking for air escort (C in C EI 1332Z/13)

NOT EXCEEDING THAT OF LAST YEAR.

TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS WERE CARRIED INTO EFFECT WITH THE LEAST INCONVENIENCE TO THE INDUSTRIES CONCERNED, ADVISORY COMMITTEES REPRESENTATIVE OF DISTILLERS, THE BREWERIES AND THE MALTSTERS WERE BEING SET UP BY HIS DEPARTMENT.

STELS WOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE PURCHASES OF CEREAL FOR BREWING OR DISTILLING WERE NOT MADE IN EXCESS OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS YEAR'S PERMITTED PRODUCTION.

THE CONSUMPTION OF SUGAR FOR BREWING WOULD IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THE REDUCTION OF SUPPLIES FOR OTHER INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, BE REDUCED TO SEVENTY PER CENT OF NORMAL REQUIREMENTS.

SUPPLIES OF CEREALS WOULD IF NECESSARY BE AVAILABLE TO MEET THE DEFICIENCY. HE HAD BEEN ASSURED OF THE COOPERATION OF THE INDUSTRIES CONCERNED IN GIVING EFFECT TO THE GOVERNMENT WISHES.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
~~South Atlantic.~~
America & West Indies.

SECRET

13.5.1940
Monday.

Dispositions

~~I.S.D.~~ Following dispositions are to be assumed as soon as convenient. ~~H.M.S.~~ CARADOC to remain at Curacao for the present. ~~H.M.S.~~ DUNDEE to operate in Curacao area as required by ~~H.M.S.~~ CARADOC, then resume duty West Indies Oil Protective Force. ~~H.M.S.~~ DESPATCH to patrol approach to Colon. H.M.C.S. FRASER as required by Flag or Senior Officer Jamaica Force.

(c: C.A.W.I., 1250/13).

15.33 ADD 09.37....BIG STRIKE CALLED OFF....

THE GENERAL STRIKE CALLED FOR TODAY BY THE JOINT BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TEXTILE LABOUR ASSOCIATION WAS AVERTED BY A LAST MINUTE APPEAL BY THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY, SIR ROGER LUMLEY, TO THE EMPLOYERS AND THE LABOUR UNION WHO AGREED TO SUBMIT THE DISPUTE TO THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S PERSONAL APPEAL, HOWEVER, BOTH SIDES WILL SUBMIT TO ARBITRATION.

B-2 --REUTER

15.37 HOUSE OF COMMONS - GOVERNMENT ACQUISITION OF SECURITIES. FEB 26.

ASKED IF HE WOULD GIVE THE VALUE AT PAR IN STERLING, OF THE SECURITIES ACQUIRED, AS SHOWN IN THE STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, NO 213, EMERGENCY POWERS (DEFENCE FINANCE

AND THE ACQUISITION PRICE, WHO THE SECURITIES WERE PURCHASED

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS

13.5.1940
Monday

China

Dutch East Indies

My 1605/11. Dutch Naval C. in C. has no knowledge of such warnings or reasons for them. He would be grateful for any information regarding danger to island area where Japanese Fleet might assemble unknown to himself. Intend keeping him informed through Consul-General, Batavia, of general situation of Japanese Fleet as known here. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0335Z/13)

SWISS PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE BEEN ASKING DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS REMAIN UNANSWERED.

THE 'NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG' SAYS: "THE BRITISH STILL SEEM UNABLE TO GRASP THE DISASTROUS EFFECT OF A LACK OF CAPABLE LEADERSHIP, WHICH MANY PEOPLE IN LONDON STILL BELIEVE TO BE INDISPENSABLE."

P A R I S

THE FRANKNESS AND COURAGE WITH WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE ARE ADMIRED AND HIS APPEAL TO CLOSE THE RANKS IS WARMLY APPROVED.

THE MAN IN THE STREET WELCOMES THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MR CHURCHILL'S NEW POST AND LOOKS FOR EVIDENCE SHORTLY OF THAT VIGOUR AND DRIVE WHICH IS DEMANDED BY THE PUBLIC.

G E R M A N Y (VIA AMSTERDAM)

AMONG THE FIRST OBSERVATIONS TO BE HEARD IN NAZI CIRCLES WERE:

"CHAMBERLAIN REVEALED HOW THE BRITISH UNDER-ESTIMATED THE MIGHT AND EFFICIENCY OF THE GERMAN ARMY."

"WITH NOTHING NEW TO OFFER HIS BEWILDERED FOLLOWERS, HE HAD TO MAKE AN APPEAL FOR UNITY."

FOREIGN STATIONS
China

13.5.40
Monday

SECRET

Position of CiC — at the moment Hong Kong best central position for CiC China, but I am ready to go to Singapore at short notice in case situation in British E.I. requires my presence (CiC China 04552/13)

Dutch East Indies.

~~IMPORTANT~~.

My 1901/10. Necessity for adherence to this instruction arises out of delicacy of situation created by Japanese insistence upon maintenance of Status quo in Dutch East Indies and desire on our part to do nothing which might interfere with present favourable trend of United States opinion. Whole question is being examined and you will be informed of result in due course.

(1408/13)

(D.O.D. (H))

German Ships. — In view of renewed reports of intention of German merchant vessels to proceed Vladivostok I intend for next 3 or 4 weeks to keep one armed merchant cruiser off East Coast of Japan. (CinC China 03592/13)

GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER, ON FRIDAY MORNING, AND WILL AFTERWARDS SEE HITLER.

HE WILL ALSO MEET GOERING.

THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IS TO GIVE AN OFFICIAL BANQUET IN HIS HONOUR. --REUTER

B-2

09.22 QUESTIONS FOR MR WELLES.

NEW YORK, FEB 28: "IT IS AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT FOR PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT TO KNOW THE STATE OF MIND OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE AS THE OPINION OF ITS LEADERS", DECLARES THE 'NEW YORK TIMES' THIS MORNING, COMMENTING ON MR SUMNER WELLES' FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BERLIN.

QUESTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE ASKED BY MR WELLES, THE WRITER ADDS, ARE:

"HOW MUCH DO THE GERMAN PEOPLE KNOW OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD OUTSIDE? CAN THE ARMY BE COUNTED UPON TO DO WHAT IT

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS,
Mediterranean.

13.5.1940
Monday.

Italian Preparations

Reports received from various sources that merchant vessels have been requisitioned Leghorn. Six others requisitioned Adriatic are being sent to Brindisi. Two ships of Adriatica Line being armed at Brindisi. Trawlers being requisitioned Bari. Net defence placed at Leghorn. Mines have been placed off Durazzo (C 2) and other mines being held in readiness for laying off Valona and Port Edda (Santi Quaranta) B 2 on 15th May to which date significance is attached. Additional A.A. guns being mounted Brindisi (A one). 7 troopships Naples May 11th loading troops, ammunition and foodstuffs.

(N.A. Rome, 2059/13)

CRITICAL IN THEIR EARLY SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS.

B-2 --REUTER

7

11.32 "NORWEGIAN CAMPAIGN FINISHED"

ROME, MAY 9.: "FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW THE CAMPAIGN IN NORWAY IS FINISHED," GENERAL FALKENHORST, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE GERMAN FORCES IN NORWAY, TOLD THE ITALIAN AND SPANISH JOURNALISTS NOW VISITING THAT COUNTRY. --REUTER

M-2

SECRET 13.5.1940

FOREIGN STATIONS
Mediterranean

Italy. An officer wishing to book passage for wife in ALA LITTORIA plane was discouraged by officials of the Line unless she travelled before 15/5. (B.O.I., Malta, 2005/13)

Spain. Five military classes have been called up in Balearic Is. only. I consider this additional evidence of Spain's intention to resist any Italian attempt. (N.A., Madrid, 1259/13)

Hungary. Following from N.A., Budapest for D.N.I. Your 1201/11. Telephonic and telegraph communication between Hungary and Germany is normal. German-Hungarian frontier has been closed on Germany for some days and has not yet been reopened. (O'Malley, Budapest, 2029/13).

AS HAVE OCCURRED IN NORWAY, INSTEAD OF ORGANISING EXPEDIENTS, AFTER THE EVENT.

B-2 --REUTER

16.50 WALL STREET REPORT.

NEW YORK, MAY 8: THE EARLY ADVANCE ENCOUNTERED PROFIT-TAKING WHICH REDUCED OR WIPED OUT MANY OF THE GAINS, THE MARKET TURNING DULL.

PRICES, HOWEVER, ARE AGAIN MOSTLY FRACTIONALLY HIGHER, WITH STEEL AND AIRCRAFT ISSUES VERY PROMINENT. --REUTER

B-2

FOREIGN STATIONS

13.5.40
Monday

South Atlantic.

SECRET

DUCHESSA D'AOSTA — Explanation why she was detained. Political situation - presence of Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Durban - Prime Minister personally authorized all reasonable steps to be taken to delay sailings (NOIC Simonstown 1448/13)

Belgian & Dutch Ships. — Add to my 1131/12. The same order applies as for British ships. (S.O.S., Freetown, 1001/13)

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping.

~~Addressed. Ramsgate Weymouth and Falmouth.~~

~~Serial Nos. Ramsgate. 1465.~~
~~Weymouth. 780.~~
~~Falmouth. 569.~~

Dutch + Belgian Ships

For the future unless special instructions to the contrary are received it willbe unnecessary to exercise either contraband or Enemy export control over cargoes going to or coming from our Allies Holland and Belgium.

This message is not intended to affect in any way Naval Control over the movements of Shipping but relates merely to the operations of Contraband and Enemy export control.

Convoys Situation at 2000/13. (Ci: CWA 1306/13)

~~Received from~~ M. E. W., No. T. O. O., rcd. 1205/13)

"THE GERMAN PEOPLE," HE SAYS, "HAVE NO HATRED AND NO ENMITY TOWARDS THE BRITISH AND FRENCH PEOPLE. BUT IT IS CONFRONTED TODAY WITH THE QUESTION WHETHER IT WANTS TO LIVE OR GO UNDER."

M-2 --REUTER

10.38 GERMAN AMBASSADOR CALLS ON BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

BRUSSELS, MAY 10.: THE FOREIGN MINISTER, M. SPAAK, AT 8.15 THIS MORNING RECEIVED THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS, HERR VON BULOW-SCHWANTE, AND HIS COUNSELLOR OF EMBASSY, DR VON BERGEN.

THE CONVERSATIONS LASTED UNTIL 8.40 A.M. --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS 13.5.40
Monday

SECRET

Enemy Intelligence.

~~2 enemy aeroplanes reported bearing 360 distance 2 miles course 360 position 55°0'N 7°35'E (A/C 0940/13)~~

7 mine-sweepers & flak-ship attacked by a Hudson 55°30'N 7°30'E, ~~and~~ 55°30'N, 7°28'E, 55°00'N, 7°35'E, while on Recce reconnaissance. (Doolittle, 1238/13)

...DURING THE PREVIOUS

TWELVE MONTHS.

FOR THE 28 WEEKS ENDED MARCH 14 LOEWS INCORPORATED EARNED A NET PROFIT OF 6,790,000 DOLLARS, EQUAL TO 3.79 DOLLARS A SHARE, AS AGAINST 6,369,000 DOLLARS (3.68 DOLLARS) FOR THE FORRESPONDING PERIOD TWELVE MONTHS AGO. --REUTER.

S-1

15.23 ITALIAN BATTLESHIP IN DRY DOCK.

PARIS, MAY 7: THE 35,000-TON BATTLESHIP 'VITTORIO VENETO', WHICH WAS LAUNCHED IN 1937 AND RECENTLY PUT INTO SERVICE, HAS GONE INTO DRY DOCK TO HAVE HER HULL SCRAPED, ACCORDING TO A GENOA DISPATCH. --REUTER

B-2

HOME COMMANDS.

13-5-40

Enemy Intelligence

monday.

SECRET

outpost 2 vessels.

2 enemy auxiliary vessels bearing 360 distance 2 miles course 360 position 55° 0'N 7° 35'E (A/c 220 Sqdn, 0940/13) machine gunned (IC 0450/40)

7 mine-sweepers.

7 enemy minesweepers bearing 050° distance 1 mile course 360 position YNJV 3030 (A/c 220 Sqdn, 0901/13)

12

TEA148 SMALL BUSINESS ON STOCK EXCHANGE. MAY 10.

THE LOWERING AND WIDENING OF QUOTATIONS IS STILL TAKING PLACE AND ONLY SMALL AMOUNTS ARE CHANGING HANDS. ANY SIZEABLE QUANTITY IS CALLED FOR A STATING OF THE CASE.

BELGIAN AND DUTCH INTERESTS ARE NOMINAL. INSTANCES ARE ROYAL DUTCH AROUND 20, A FALL OF AROUND 5 POINTS, AND THE BELGIAN 4% CONVERSION LOAN, 10 POINTS DOWN AT 45.

Home Comds

SECRET

13.5.40.
Rm.

Enemy Intelligence.

2 outport vessels — 55°30'N 7°28'E attacked with bombs, no hits but 2 which fell very close may have damaged 1 ship. (IC. 0450/40)

~~2 outport vessels — 55°0'N 7°35'E machine gunned (IC. 0450/40)~~

Enemy mine — located approx. 58°40'N 3°30'E (70 miles WSW Stavanger) at 2048/13. Probably surface mine (IC. 0450/40)

13.47 GERMANS CLAIM SEIZURE OF LIEGE CITADEL.

BERLIN, MAY 13: AN OFFICIAL GERMAN NEWS AGENCY MESSAGE TODAY CLAIMS THAT THE GERMANS HAVE CAPTURED THE CITADEL OF LIEGE FORTRESS. --REUTER.

S-1

13.48 THE STATUS QUO IN THE DUTCH EAST INDIES.

TOKYO, MAY 13: BRITISH ASSURANCES IN REGARD TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE STATUS QUO IN THE NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES WERE CONVEYED TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, SIR ROBERT CRAIGIE TONIGHT, ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "SIR ROBERT TOLD MR ARITA THAT

SECRET

13.5.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS
Enemy Intelligence

Norway. British Vice-Consul, Bergen, arrived here to-day, states fairly definite that the Germansin South Norway have only three motor torpedo boats operating on 9/5 in Sogne Fiord, previously in Hardanger Fiord. Three weeks ago, SCHARNHORST (?) a big battle-cruiser, disabled, being disguised at coaling quay, Marineholmen, Bergen, and painted black. Perhaps still there as repair facilitiesinadequate. (N.O.I.C., Lerwick, 1347/13)

S-1 --REUTER.

10.40 TROLLEY BUS STRIKE. MAY 8.

MORE THAT 500 TROLLEY BUS DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS AT THE EDMONTON DEPOT OF THE L.P.T.B. DECIDED AT A MIDNIGHT MEETING TO STRIKE TODAY.

THIS FOLLOWS COMPLAINTS ABOUT NEW SCHEDULES. ROUTES IN NORTH LONDON AFFECTED, ARE THE 627, 649, 659 AND 679.

AN OFFICIAL OF THE L.P.T.B. SAID THIS MORNING:

"AT THE MOMENT I CANNOT SAY WHETHER ALTERNATIVE

HOME COMMANDS. 13.5.40
Monday.

SECRET

0500 WEATHER.

	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Variable or NW, light or moderate	Good	Wind becoming W or SW in North. Visibility deteriorating in rain.
Channel & W. approaches	Variable, light	Mainly good, local haze.	Similar
Horns Reef	NW. Moderate.	Mod. or good.	Wind backing
Coast of Norway	N or NW. moderate or fresh.	Good.	Wind backing SW. Visibility deteriorating in rain.
Dutch Coast	NW light or moderate.	Mainly Good.	Wind backing.

AMOUNTING TO 24 PER CENT LESS TAX TO HOLDERS OF ORDINARY SHARES, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT A BONUS OF 4.1379 PENCE PER SHARE LESS TAX BE PAID TO SUCH SHAREHOLDERS REGISTERED ON THE BOOKS OF THE COMPANY ON MAY 7TH 1940. THIS BONUS DIVIDEND WILL BE PAID ON 30TH JUNE 1940 AND IS THE MAXIMUM PAYABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHANCELLOR'S PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE LIMITATION OF DIVIDENDS.

B-2 --REUTER

16

16.03 HOUSE OF COMMONS TRIBUTE TO MR LANSBURY. MAY 8.

AT THE END OF QUESTIONS AND BEFORE THE WAR DEBATE WAS RESUMED THE PRIME MINISTER PAID A TRIBUTE TO THEMEMORY OF MR GEORGE LANSBURY WHO DIED YESTERDAY. --REUTER.

S-1

HOME COMMANDS. 13. 5. 40.
Monday.

SECRET

Mining

6th M.S.F. to carryout sweep in SQ 2 but will still be available for Operations DE or DF (DMS 0026/13)

SHEET 2...CHAMBERLAIN WORLD REACTION...

S T O C K H O L M

UNOFFICIAL SWEDISH CIRCLES CONSIDER THE PREMIER'S SPEECH AN INCONCLUSIVE EXAMINATION OF THE PRITISH WITHDRAWAL. IN ANSWER TO HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE SWEDISH.PRESS HAD MADE COMMENTS OF A "POLEMICAL" CHARACTER, IT IS POINTED OUT THAT GERMANY HAS FREQUENTLY PROTESTED AGAINST NEWS AND COMMENTS PUBLISHED IN SWEDEN AND THAT ONLY A FORTNIGHT AGO THE PRESS REFUTED A NAZI ALLEGATION THAT THEIR PRESENTATION OF NEWS WAS DICTATED BY BRITISH PROPAGANDA.

THE 'STOCKHOLMS TIDNINGEN' SAYS THIS MORNING THAT THE BRITISH EXPEDITION TO HELP NORWAY COMPLETELY FAILED, AND THE MATERIAL STRENGTH OF BRITISH WORLD POWER PROVED INSUFFICIENT AT THIS POINT TO MEET GERMAN ARMS.

A NEUTRAL OBSERVER, THE PAPER CONSIDERS, IS NOT ABLE TO DESCRIBE THE SPEECH AS STRONG. APPARENTLY THE PRIME MINISTER

HOME COMMANDS 13.5.40
~~Operations~~ Monday

SECRET

Mining

~~Explosion reported about 6 miles S of CODRINGTON in North Channel on bearing Y mniden (Operation 1) (100 0720/13) (IC 0449/40)~~

at least 2 a/c mines are reported ff Flushing in 51°26' N 3°33'E and 51°25' N, 3°36'E (p.a.) (IC 0449/40)

"DURING OPERATIONS IN THE MOUNTAINS, DETACHMENTS FROM WESTERN FINNMARK AND NORTH HAALOGOLAND HAVE ACCOMPLISHED PARTICULARLY FINE WORK." --REUTER

B-2

09.58 GERMANS MINE NARVIK FJORD - SWEDISH REPORT.

STOCKHOLM, MAY 8: THE GERMANS HAVE MINED NARVIK FJORD, ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED HERE WHICH ARE BELIEVED TO BE RELIABLE.

THE MINES, IT IS THOUGHT, WERE LAID BY AEROPLANES.

S-1 --REUTER.

13.5.40

Precautions.

SECRET

Humber — Reporting that all military guards for N.E.P. ships had been removed from Hull docks, thus without any armed guard against low flying aircraft or sabotage. Security control Offict has made representations to military without result. (F.O. Number 1758/13

09.34 -WAREHOUSE FIRE. MAY 4.

THE GLOW OF A FIRE AT A WAREHOUSE IN VYNER STREET, BETHNAL GREEN, EARLY TODAY, LIT UP THE SKY OVER EAST LONDON FOR AN HOUR.

A DISTRICT CALL WAS CIRCULATED AND 12 APPLIANCES ATTENDED.

S-2 --REUTER.

09.35 NORWAY PEACE NEGOTIATIONS DENIED. MAY 4.

THE WAR OFFICE REPLYING EARLY TODAY TO A SWEDISH RADIO REPORT, THAT COL. GETZ COMMANDER OF THE NORWEGIAN FORCES IN THE TRONDELAG AREA NORTH AND SOUTH OF TRONDHJEM INCLUDING NAMSOS HAS

HOME COMMANDS 13.5.40
Monday.

SECRET

Precautions.

Dover. Suggesting a flight of Balloon Barrage at Dover for protection of train ferry dock and marine station.
(V.A., Dover, 1550(13)

09.51 ADD 09.13 "GERMAN MEMORANDUM"

"2. DUTCH, IN CONNECTION WITH BELGIAN, QUARTERS HAVE ALLOWED THEIR TERRITORY TO BE USED FOR BRITISH SECRET SERVICE ATTEMPTS TO STIR UP A REVOLUTION IN GERMANY.

"THE BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SERVICE WORKING IN A GROSS VIOLATION OF THE NEUTRALITY OF THESE TWO COUNTRIES HAD THE MOST FAR-REACHING ASSISTANCE OF DUTCH AND BELGIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND GENERAL STAFF CIRCLES.

"THESE ACTIVITIES HAD NO OTHER AIM BUT THE REMOVAL O

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
CS2 @ BIRMINGHAM

13.2.40
Monday

SECRET

Report to Chairs' notice for Cream (C.C. Note 1517/12 to CS2)

AS IT SUBSTITUTES A BREAK IN THE UNITED FRONT ADOPTED BY THE FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES WHOSE PROPERTIES HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER.

ALL THE INTERESTS MENTIONED IN THE AGREEMENT ARE SUBSIDIARY TO THE SINCLAIR CONTROL.

THE MEXICAN MINISTER OF FINANCE, SENOR SAUREZ, STATED THAT PAYMENT WILL BE MADE AS FOLLOWS: ONE MILLION DOLLARS ON THE SIGNATURE OF THE CONTRACT, TWO MILLION DOLLARS MORE WITHIN A YEAR OF THE SIGNING, THREE MILLION DOLLARS DURING THE SECOND YEAR AND TWO AND A HALF MILLION MORE DURING THE THIRD YEAR AFTER SIGNATURE. --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS 13.5.40
Monday

~~Dutch Coast~~
~~Operation J~~

SECRET

Mining

d/c mine Ymuiden

Your 0651 to VIMY. One explosion possibly A mine dropping from a/c ahead of CODRINGTON in northern channel on bearing Ymuiden (Capt D 1 0720/13 to C-in-C Nore.)

Enemy laid magnetic mines in inner harbour today but not in channels. Am assisting Dutch in attempts to explode by skid. (Comdr. Goodenough, Ymuiden XD 1224/13)

Is harbour mined (C-in-C Nore 0651/13 to VIMY)

Magnetic mines laid in outer harbour after departure of CODRINGTON (Operation J) approx. 0230/13 and Dutch M.V. sunk clear of channel (Comdr. Goodenough Force D, KIMBERLEY 1324/13)

09.34 EVACUATED ALLIED TROOPS - U.S. ESTIMATE

NEW YORK, MAY 8: THE TOTAL NUMPER OF ALLIED TROOPS EVACUATED FROM AANDALSNES WAS 4,764, ACCORDING TO A WASHINGTON REPORT IN THE 'NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE', TODAY, WHILE THE TOTAL ALLIED CASUALTIES IN THAT AREA ARE PUT AT 1,800.

THE REPORT ADDS THAT IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE GERMAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES ARE SURPRISED AT THE COMPARATIVELY SLIGHT SUCCESS OF THE GERMAN AIR FORCE IN ATTACKS ON ALLIED SHIPPING IN THE NORWEGIAN CAMPAIGN.

PARTICULAR ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE FACT THAT GERMAN AIRCRAFT MADE FORTY ATTACKS ON A SHIP ON MAY 1, DROPPING 156 BOMBS WITHOUT A SINGLE HIT BEING SCORED OR ANY CASUALTIES RESULTING, WHILE FOUR ENEMY AIRCRAFT WERE SHOT DOWN. --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS 13.5.40
Movements Monday

Dutch Queen. Taken from Hook to Brest-sur (on mainland opposite Flushing) at her request by HERENARD escorted by VERSATILE who has been ordered to return to Hook (Capt. D16 Rec. 1244/13, 1241/13)

S/Ms Orders 5 TRUANT, TRIDENT, TRITON, and ORZEL (V.A.S. 2134/13)

COMPLICATION. THERE IS NOTHING PARTICULAR [illegible]

IT.

"I FEEL ENTITLED TO SAY THAT WE SEE OUR WAY TO MASTERING THIS MAGNETIC MINE AND OTHER VARIANTS OF THE SAME IDEA (CHEERS).

"TO BE MODEST WE DO NOT FEEL AT ALL OUTDONE IN SCIENCE IN THIS COUNTRY BY THE NAZIS.

"THERE ARE OF COURSE TWO STAGES IN THE PROGRESS OF DEALING WITH THE MAGNETIC MINE. THE FIRST IS FINDING OUT WHAT TO DO AND THE SECOND IS APPLYING THAT KNOWLEDGE TO PRACTICAL CONDITIONS ON A VERY LARGE SCALE.

"WE ARE NOW ADVANCED UPON THE SECOND STAGE AND ALTHOUGH WE MUST EXPECT, PERHAPS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, FURTHER MUCH HEAVIER ATTACKS UPON US BY THIS METHOD, WE BELIEVE WE SHALL FIND OUTSELVES EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH IT.

"TO COPE WITH THE MINING ATTACK WE HAVE HAD TO CALL UPON THE FISHING FLEETS AND THE FISHERMEN. ALTHOUGH THIS YEAR WE SHALL HAVE ABOUT A QUARTER OF A MILLION SAILORS AT OUR DISPOSAL, WE HAD AT THE END OF NOVEMBER TO CALL FOR MANY THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS FOR MINE SWEEPING DUTIES. THE ENGAGEMENT WAS ONLY FOR THREE MONTHS AND IT IS NOW CLEAR IT MUST BE GREATLY PROLONGED. IN MANY SEAPORTS OVER SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT OF THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED F R THREE MONTHS NOW WISH TO CONTINUE FOR THE DURATION AND THE ADMIRALTY ARE GOING TO MEET THEIR WISH".

CH-1 REUTER

13.5.40
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
~~Low Countries~~ Dutch Coast.
~~Zuider Zee~~

SECRET

PERSEUS — Sailed Ymuiden 0400 8 knots (VIMY 0415/13) My 0400 (re ships aground inside outer harbour at Ymuiden) repts Louisbourg m.v. ~~has~~ escorting PERSEUS (VIMY 0502/13)

WINDSOR — Am at my own patrolling coast south of Ymuiden (WINDSOR 0506/13)

WALPOLE — VIMY 0400, Can yr help him without endangering yourself (C-in-C NORE 0649/13 to WALPOLE)

VIMY — Cancel my 0649 if VIMY is safe (C-in-C NORE 0753/13 to WALPOLE.)
Your 0651 not mined. 3 ships have safely passed entrance since explosion was heard (VIMY 0710/13 to C-in-C (Nore)

No sign of troops landing between Scheveningen and Zandvoort during dark hours. (HOTHAM 0830/13)

11.42 INDIANS IN DEMAND ON STOCK EXCHANGE. FEB 26.

BUSINESS HAS BEEN RESUMED ON MUCH THE SAME LINES AS AT THE CLOSE OF LAST WEEK.

GILT EDGED ARE PROMINENT, BOTH PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL BUYING BEING IN EVIDENCE. INDIA STOCKS CONTINUE STRONG ON THE REPATRIATION SCHEME, THE 3'S AND 3-1/2'S HAVE BOTH RISEN A POINT TO 80-1/2 AND 93-1/2 RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THE 2-1/2'S ARE TWO POINTS TO THE GOOD AT 69-1/2.

BUYING FROM THE CAPE, WHICH IS BEING SUPPLEMENTED BY LOCAL SUPPORT, HAS MADE FOR AN ALROUND IMPROVEMENT IN KAFFIRS. DIAMONDS ARE QUIETER BUT THERE IS NO SET-PACK IN PRICES.

INDUSTRIALS ARE AGAIN ENJOYING GENERAL BUYING, THE HEAVY AND BUILDING GROUPS BEING THE MOST FAVOURED, WHILE AIRCRAFTS AND MOTORS ARE ALSO IN THE LIMELIGHT, ROLLS ROYCE AT 4-7/16 AND THOMAS TILLING AT 45/-. SMALL GAINS ARE SHOWN IN SHIPPING SHARES.

OIL SHARES ARE VERY FIRM, ANGLO-IRANIAN AT 2-27/32 ARE BEING SINGLED OUT FOR ATTENTION.

FOREIGN BONDS DISPLAY LITTLE OF INTEREST, WHILE RAILS ARE QUIET AND INCLINED TO DULNESS. --REUTER

B-2

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Helder - Texel - Zuider Zee

13.5.40
Monday

VALOROUS Intend anchoring Knock. Deep 2230 to-day Monday
expected to arrive Sheerness 0730 14th. May.
Would like to see Staff Officer if possible to
amplify my signal timed 1601 *. (VALOROUS, 1831/13)

* Suggestion of bombing Germans at Zuider Zee

11.51 MUSSOLINI ADDRESSES CROWD.

ROME, MAY 9: "YOU MUST GET USED TO MY SILENCE WHICH ONLY EVENTS CAN BREAK", SAID MUSSOLINI ADDRESSING THE CROWD FROM THE BALCONY OF THE PALAZZO VENEZIA TODAY. --REUTER

B-2

11.52 M. REYNAUD SEES FRENCH PRESIDENT.

PARIS, MAY 9: BEFORE TODAY'S FRENCH CABINET MEETING

PREMIER, WENT TO THE ELYSEE AND HAD A

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.

13.5.1940
Monday.

Operations.
Helder (Cont'd)

Dutch Admiral Jolles informs me that Germans are massed at Friesland end of Zuider Zee duke, Dutch fort is holding out strongly at present. No ship with draught over 8 ft. can approach within 18,000 yards to bombard Germans and Admiral suggests bombers would be effective. Admiral says he could supply petrol if British made air station south of Wieringen. Consider only need for ship at Helder is liaison. (VALOROUS, 1601/13)

FOREIGNERS OCCUPY MANY KEY POSITIONS IN PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES, THE POSSIBILITY OF FIFTH COLUMN ACTIVITIES IS ONE OF PARTICULAR DANGER FOR EGYPT.

BUT THIS THREAT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY AVERTED BY FAR-REACHING PRECAUTIONS. THESE INCLUDE THE PROCLAMATION AS PROHIBITED AREAS OF THE NILE DELTA AND THE NILE BARRAGES, THE CLOSE GUARDING OF AERODROMES, BRIDGES AND PORTS, AND THE REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO ALIENS TO ENTER OR TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY EXCEPT UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE CIVIL INHABITANTS OF THE FRONTIER TOWNS IN THE WESTERN DESERT ARE BEING EVACUATED WHERE NECESSARY. THIS WAS BEGUN TWO DAYS AGO.

THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY GOVERNOR HAS ORDERED RESERVISTS OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMY AND NAVY, NOW ON THE RETIRED LIST, TO HOLD THEMSELVES IN READINESS FOR INSTANT RECALL.

THE LEADING ITALIAN BANK IN ALEXANDRIA HAS PAID ITS EMPLOYEES TWO MONTHS' SALARY IN ADVANCE.

THE REINFORCEMENT OF THE FLEET AT ALEXANDRIA BY BRITISH AND FRENCH WARSHIPS CONTINUES. --REUTER

B-1

SECRET

13.5.1940

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Dutch Coast, Rotterdam.

Bombardment of Aerodrome.

Your 1953/12 , bombardment of car park used as aerodrome south of Rotterdam. This bombardment is not practicable. (Capt. D.1, 1053/13) (C-in-C Nore 1435/13)

11.53 N.E.I. TIN EXPORTS. MAY 9.

ACCORDING TO A REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE HAGUE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE APRIL EXPOTS OF TIN AND TIN IN ORE FROM THE NETHERLANDS INDIES AMOUNTED TO 2,215 LONG TONS. --REUTER

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS. 13.5.1940.

Operations.

Ymuiden - Evacuations.

Refugees will depart from Ymuiden in various ships for the next two or three days. Some defence against air attacks is advisable. Consul-General and Shipping Adviser will try to send word of departure. Hope that good ship willbe put at disposal. (N.A., Hague, 1700/13)

Following from F.N.L.O.,London, to French N.A. at the Hague. Two French destroyers to arrive at dawn 14/5 at Ymuiden to take there General Mittelhauser. Said destroyers may take in personnel to be repatriated. Should not be made to call at Hook on way back unless in case of extreme urgency. (F.N.L.O., to Capt. Hastings, 1745/13)

NOW, HOWEVER, THE FARMERS HAVE SOLD THEIR COTTON AND SPECULATORS ARE SAID TO HAVE STEPPED IN, BUYING UP VERY LARGE QUANTITIES OF SPOT COTTON AT LOW PRICES FOR SALE IN THE FUTURES MARKET.

THEIR OBJECT IN SO DOING IS SAID TO BE TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE THIS COTTON AT THE MINIMUM FUTURES PRICE WHICH IS HIGH THAN THE PRESENT SPOT PRICE, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE FUTURES MARKET.

THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT ITS AIM IS THUS BEING DEFEATED. IT INTENDS TO CARRY OUT AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF ILLEGAL SPECULATION.

MEANWHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED THE LIQUIDATION OF ALL CONTRACTS. --REUTER.

S-2

SECRET

13.5.40
Monday

HOME COMMANDS
Operations Holland — Evacuations
~~Holland — Evacuations~~ ~~Low Countries — Evacuations~~.

F.O. Official to go to Ymuiden.

~~888.~~ I am very reluctant to risk a destroyer with an official from Foreign Office from Harwich to Ymuiden observing Ymuiden has been mined, water is shallow and air attacks are intense. Propose that an M.T.B. be used instead if the journey is of urgent importance.

1917/13

CYCLONE SCIROCO — French destroyers. Will be proceeding to Ymuiden tonight (FOR DOVER 1957/13)

WINDSOR — Bringing 70 Dutch Govt. and officials & Belgian and Norwegian Legations, expect to arrive Southend 0700 (WINDSOR 2001/13)

VIVIEN — Expect to arrive Sheerness 0730. 89 British, French and Belgian refugees (VIVIEN 2050/13)

WINDSOR — Your 2001. Disembark passengers at Tilbury returning to Sheerness on completion (C in C Nore 2219/13)

WESSEX — Proceed to Hook for refugees. VESPER reduce to cruising speed. (C in C Nore 2231/13)

MOHAWK — Expect to arrive Tongue L.V. 0700/14 with HM Minister &c. and 250 refugees (MOHAWK 2248/13)

14.41 FRANCE'S WAR ECONOMY

PARIS, FEB 26: M. DALADIER PRESIDED OVER A MEETING OF MINISTERS HELD TODAY FOR A FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE ECONOMIC MEASURES WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE NEXT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR FINAL DECISION.

THE MINISTERS PRESENT INCLUDED M. REYNAUD (FINANCE), M. DAUTRY (ARMAMENTS), M. PERNOD (BLOCKADE) AND M. QUEUILLE (AGRICULTURE). M. SERRUYS, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY, AND M. ROGER AUBOIN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMITTE FOR ALLIED PURCHASES, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

B-1 --REUTER

14.44 NEW FRANCO-ITALIAN TRADE PACT?

PARIS, FEB 26: A NEW FRANCO-ITALIAN TRADE AGREEMENT ADAPTING COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES TO PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IS EXPECTED TO RESULT FROM NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE BEING HELD HERE THIS WEEK.

THE ITALIAN DELEGATION [illegible]

HOME COMMANDS.

SECRET

Operations

Dutch Coast.

13.5.40.
Monday

VERSATILE to patrol.

Cancel my 2358/12 join MOHAWK off Dutch coast and take Nore destroyers under your orders. Capt. (D) 16th D.F. in MALCOLM is at present senior officer in Hook. Maintain patrol off coast and act as circumstnaces require keeping Capt. (D) 16th D.F. informed.

(C.C Nore 1010/13 to VERSATILE)

10.30 PARIS INTEREST IN SUMNER WELLES.

PARIS, FEB 28: MR SUMNER WELLES' VISITS TO ROME AND BERLIN ARE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH IN THE PARIS PRESS THIS MORNING.

CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS IS LAID ON THE FACT THAT IN HIS LONG MESSAGE TO THE POPE, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT EXPRESSES SIMILAR IDEAS TO THOSE SO OFTEN STATED BY MR CHAMBERLAIN AND M. DALADIER.

REPORTS THAT GERMANY IS MAKING MR WELLES' VISIT THE OCCASION FOR A NEW PEACE OFFENSIVE IS RECEIVED HERE WITH COLD INDIFFERENCE.

COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S REMARKS CONCERNING THE FUTURE PEACE, THE 'PETIT PARISIEN' WRITES:

"THIS IDEAL IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT FOR WHICH BRITAIN AND FRANCE ARE FIGHTING. THEY ARE ALSO FIGHTING FOR LIBERTY AND SECURITY AND THE INTEGRITY OF ALL NATIONS.

"IT IS COMFORTING TO NOTE THAT AT THE MOMENT WHEN HE IS

HME COMMANDS.
Dutch Coast (General)

13.5.1940
Monday.

Enemy MTB's --?

Ships operating off Dutch Coast should bear in mind the possibility of attack from M.T.B.'s operating from Ems. An air reconnaissance of the Dutch Coast is made at dusk each day. (O.O. 2256/13)

LEADING TRADE UNIONISTS INTO MEETING

SO THAT BOTH SIDES WILL BE REPRESENTED AND BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE A SHARE IN THE HONOUR OF SUCCESS".

CH-1 REUTER

IN...HOUSE OF COMMONS (16.11)...READ IN SECOND PARAGRAPH:

.....FIX THE PRICE IT DID F O R THE ACQUISITION, ETC...

CH-1 REUTER

16.41. CHURCHILL FLASH...7...

DEALING WITH THE NORTHERN PATROL FROM SCOTLAND TO GREENLAND -

13.5.40
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations
Dutch coast
Zuider Zee:

SECRET

VALOROUS to Southwold — GRIFFIN is returning to Harwich. Dutch warships is to Southward east coast of Zuider Zee by dam. Collect local pilot and assist. Floating mines were seen in approaches (C.in C. Nore 0205/13 to VALOROUS, repeated HEREWARD &c.)

NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS:

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUDGET WILL BEGIN TO BE AVAILABLE ON THE TICKER ABOUT 13.30 TODAY.

CH-6 REUTER

11.47 NAZI PEACE PLAN REPORTS "SHEER INVENTION"

BERLIN, FEB 28: REPORTS PUBLISHED IN THE BRITISH PRESS OF A GERMAN PEACE PLAN OF WHICH THE MAIN POINTS WERE THE CREATION OF A NEW POLISH STATE, SELF GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROTECTORATE OF BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA AND THE RETURN TO GERMANY OF HER FORMER COLONIES, ARE EMPHATICALLY DENIED HERE.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Rotterdam.

SECRET

13.5.1940
Monday.

Summary of information from reliable sources May 12th.

~~1. Rotterdam.~~

0

(a) North Bank.

Germans believed holding bridge head not more than 100 yards radius - sporadic outbursts of firing - local Nazi-Socialist-Bund snipers in houses. Otherwise Dutch in control.

(b) Centre.

Holland-Amerika Line dock area in flames.

(c) South.

Heavy firing. Germans reported retreating towards Dordrecht but Dutch General Staff reports troops land continuously Waalhaven aerodrome and Feyenoord sports arena.

(The Hague. 0532/13)

17.54. U.S. NAVY SPEED UP

.....W A S H I N G T O N, MAY 14.....THE UNITED STATES NAVY HAS RECOMMENDED THAT CONGRESS SHOULD PROVIDE IMMEDIATELY AN ADDITIONAL 300,000,000 DOLLARS TO SPEED UP THE COMPLETION OF 68 COMBAT AND AUXILIARY SHIPS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

CH-1 --REUTER

17.55. BREMEN RADIO SILENT FOR THREE HOURS MAY 14.

BREMEN RADIO WAS SILENT FOR THREE HOURS THIS AFTERNOON, BEING STILL OFF THE AIR AT 17.15. --REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

13.5.1940
Monday.

aHOME COMMANDSç
Operations.
Hook of Holland.

A/A Defence Needed. — WILD SWAN reports that anti-aircraft gun defence of Hook is essential if port is to continue to be used. Heavy air attack would quickly demolish piers and vessels alongside are very vulnerable. (VçA., Dover, 1148/13)

Royal Marines. — Report situation re victualling Royal Marines at Hookof Holland and how long they can be maintained from local resources. (C. in C., Nore, 1317/13)

Your 1317. Marines have obtained provisions for a further two days. While town is intact they can be maintained indefinitely. (Capt. D.16, 1520/13)

A/A Ammunition. — Essential that until further notice at least 500 rounds per day of 4-in. H.A. ammunition should be made available for replenishment of A/A destroyes on Belgian Coast. (V.A., Dover, 1216/13)

16.15 NEW YORK OPENING RUBBER FEB 28.

STEADY: MAR 18.00 MAY 17.95 BID JLY 17.80 BID SEPT 17.73

OCT 17.77 OFFRD DEC 17.60 OFFRD JAN UNQ --REUTER

M-1

16.17 WALL STREET OPENS FIRM.

NEW YORK FEB 28 - THE TONE AT THE OPENING THIS MORNING

HOME COMMANDS. 13.5.40
Operations Monday
Dutch Coast
Hook of Holland Operation Harpoon.

SECRET

Landing of Battalion — Moving record from Hook. Landing of Battalion should be completed by 0600 provided there is no hold-up (VA Dover 0846/13)

R.M. — Royal marines are not to return until ordered (VA Dover 0849/13)

Larger force Suggested — Guards Battalion intend to advance through Marines who will remain securing bases at Hook of Holland until relieved. It seems an opportunity to send a larger force and advance while still unopposed. ~~Have landed Lieut. Robertson with type 53 W/T apparatus as Liaison Officer with Guards.~~ (Yes leave in)

(Capt. D16 0940/13.)

Force Disembarked. — Disembarkation at Hook of Holland unopposed but interrupted by constant air raid alarms, hostile aircraft sighted, no bombing. (D.16, 0732/13)

Harpoon Operation Completed. — Harpoon completed. NIVERN and BOREAS with CANTERBURY sailed 0945. Am proceeding now with MAID OF ORLEANS (Capt (D) 19, 1120/13)

Second Battalion reported to be by 1656/12 will probably be sent to arrive Hook during night 14-15 May. R.M. Force will probably be withdrawn in ships bringing this battalion. (DDD(H) 1923/13 to VA, Dover).

GENERAL TRADING IS EVEN MORE RESTRICTED AND AN AIR OF INDECISION PREVAILS. GILT EDGED ARE FLUCTUATING AT PRICES ABOUT 1/8TH BELOW LAST NIGHT'S CLOSE.

KAFFIRS, PARTICULARLY THE DIVIDEND-PAYERS, AGAIN MAKE A GOOD SHOWING AND IN THE INDUSTRIAL MARKET CONDITIONS REMAIN QUIET, THOUGH SOME IMPROVEMENT IS TO BE SEEN IN STORE SHARES AND IN TOBACCOS.

THE RAILWAY GROUPS SHOW NO QUOTABLE ALTERATION AND THE FOREIGN MARKET IS FEATURELESS. --REUTER

M-1

11.42 HOUSE OF COMMONS. MAY 9.

THE PRIME MINISTER ENTERED THE HOUSE DURING QUESTIONS. THERE WAS NO DEMONSTRATION FROM EITHER SIDE OF THE HOUSE.

B-2 --REUTER

SECRET

13.5.1940
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Dutch Coast, Hook of Holland.

Evacuations. From conversation with N.A. and B.N.L.O., Rotterdam, it appears likely considerable number may be evacuated from Hook. In this event transport must be sent or evacuation carried out in destroyers. Heavy bombing tonight is anticipated which may destroy quay unless fighter protection can be provided. (Capt. D.16, 1549/13)

Naval Attache. Your 1510/13, asking whether to remain for any special purpose. Unless you yourselfhave any particular reason for remaining you should embark with Legation. (D.D.O.D.(H) , 1748/13)

"LIVELY RECONNOITRING ACTIVITY ON THE WESTERN FRONT BROUGHT FREQUENT CONTACT BETWEEN GERMAN AND FRENCH PATROLS.

"RECONNOITRING ACTIVITY BY THE AIR FORCE WAS SLIGHT AND NO CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY WAS MADE. THE ATTEMPT OF SOME BRITISH PLANES TO PENETRATE INTO GERMANY VIA THE HELIGOLAND BIGHT WAS PREVENTED". --REUTER.

S-1

15.29 SUNKEN SPANISH STEAMER - TORPEDOING CONFIRMED.

HENDAYE, FEB 26: IT IS CONFIRMED HERE TODAY THAT THE SPANISH STEAMER BANDERAS (2,140-TONS), REPORTED SOME DAYS AGO TO HAVE SUNK FOLLOWING AN EXPLOSION, WAS ACTUALLY TORPEDOED BY A GERMAN SUBMARINE. --REUTER.

S-1

HOME COMMANDS.

13.5.40
Monday.

SECRET

Operations
Hook of Holland

VALOROUS Have been informed Germans have not been able to advance along dam. Expect to arrive main channel Kuijk about 1330. Request fighter protection at that time.
(VALOROUS 1059/13)

W.O. for Harpoon. ~~Replace 6 gun~~ instructions. ~~Stand~~
(D.N.I. 0018/13 to D.19, V.4 Dover.)

Evacuations

Ref ~~Canea~~ my immediately preceding telegrams.
ST. DENIS cannot come down river owing to fresh mines and Ships sunk. Request Destroyers for Government, Legations and Evacuees totals possibly 400 at 1800 hours today at Hook of Holland. French Naval Attache requests Admiral Dunkirk be asked send 2 Destroyers to assist. Submit you discuss your decision those concerned as regards operation X.D. Authorities here maintain if oil tanks Rotterdam destroyed water supply will be contaminated. Destroyer cannot go up river from whence to take part in operation. Do you wish me to remain here for any special purpose. ST.DENIS will be sunk.

(N.A., Hague, 1510/13)

A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE OFFICIAL GERMAN NEWS AGENCY THIS MORNING, DESCRIBES THE REPORTS AS "SHEER INVENTION" PUT OUT "FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING THE PUBLIC MORALE IN BRITAIN AND FRANCE."

"GERMANY'S ANSWER", ADDS THE STATEMENT, "HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN - IN HERR HITLER'S SPEECH AT MUNICH. IT IS: 'FIGHT UNTIL VICTORY IS WON'".

COMMENTING THAT "IN THE ENEMY'S CAMP THEY TAKE THEIR DESIRES FOR FACTS", THE 'DEUTSCHE DIPLOMATISCHE-POLITISCHE KORRESPONDENZ' ADDS:

"GREAT BRITAIN PICTURES THE END OF THE WAR AS THE RESTORATION OF THE CITADELS WHICH ARE IN BONDAGE TO HER.

"GERMANY, ON THE OTHER HAND, CANNOT IMAGINE PEACE, UNITY AND IMPARTIALITY AMONG THE NATIONS WITHOUT THE REMOVAL OF THOSE TYRANT'S CITADELS ("ZWING URIS") ALL OVER THE WORLD, THE DISAPPEARANCE OF WHICH WILL BRING FREEDOM OF THE SEAS AND THE RECTIFICATION OF THE INJUSTICES OF CENTURIES.

"THIS TERROR MUST DISAPPEAR FOR ONLY THEN A UNITED COOPERATION OF ALL FORCES WILL BE POSSIBLE IN EUROPE."

B-2 --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Hook.

SECRET

13.5.1940
Monday.

WINDSOR
VIVIEN

Proceed to Hook forthwith and stand by to embark refugees. (C in C Nore 1615/13)

No sign of activity on beach from seaward. VERSATILE informs me beaches are strongly held by Dutch soldiers. (MOHAWK, 1544/13).

MOHAWK, WINDSOR and VIVIEN ordered to sail for Southend after embarking at Hook British Ambassador with staff and some 400 refugees. (C in C Nore 1632/13)

CH-1

14.11. SUMNER WELLES PASSES THROUGH MILAN

.....MILAN, FEB 28.....MR. SUMNER WELLES PASSED THROUGH MILAN ON HIS WAY FROM ROME TO ZURICH. THE TRAIN MADE A SHORT STOP IN THE STATION DURING WHICH THE UNITED STATES CONSUL IN MILAN WELCOMED MR. WELLES. REUTER

CH-1

12

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Flushing.

13.5.1940
Monday.

Flushing heavily bombed 12/5 and 13/5. Intend to transfer to Zeebrugge with magnetic sweepers. No communication possible with London except by W/T (Comdr. Peterson at Flushing via KIMBERLEY Rec. 2340/13)

LL Trawlers.

Essential that L.L. Equipment should not fall into enemy hands. Scuttling charges are to be fitted to LORD GREY, CLYTHENESS, LORD INCHCAPE and RIFNESS before sailing. Tails must be lashed to sink with ship when not streamed and switchgear destroyed if possible. Extra scuttling charges are to be shipped in these trawlers for fitting in four L.L. trawlers already in Holland and these instructions passed to them and to Commander Peterson at Flushing on arrival. Orders for sailing will be made tomorrow Tuesday.

1406/13)

~~for~~ D.M.S. ~~(283)~~

OF GERMANY, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DR LEY, THE GERMAN LAFTUR LEADER.

"GERMANY HAS A SPECIAL IMPORTANCE", SAID SIGNOR CAPOFERRI.

"SHE IS THE EXPRESSION OF THE SOLIDARITY OF THE FASCIST AND NATIONAL SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONS, OF THE ITALIAN AND GERMAN WORKMEN.

"I AM GLAD TO BE ABLE TO STATE THAT THERE IS CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. YOU SEE EXAMPLES OF THIS IN THE TWO GREAT FACTORIES IN FALLERSLEBEN AND SALZGITTER WHERE GERMANS AND ITALIANS WORK TOGETHER."

IN REPLY DR LEY SAID THAT THE ROME-BERLIN AXIS WAS STILL ALIVE ALTHOUGH ITS STABILITY AND ENDURANCE WERE DOUBTED ABROAD.

"THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES", HE ADDED, "IS NOT ARTIFICIAL. IT IS A DEEP FRIENDSHIP, BASED ON A COMMUNITY OF IDEAS."

B-2 --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS 13.5.40
~~Hook~~ Monday.
Dutch Coast
Operation X D

Commander in Chief will not give decision to allow operation X.D. although he states oil has already been rendered unserviceable. Government anxious to evacuate Queen and selves. I hope allied air operations on a large scale may be immediately started. This might bring about stauncher attitude.

(NA Hague 1015/13)

Amsterdam R.E.'s parties established at 3 oil installations All demolition prepared. (V.A. Dover, 1224/13)

X D Completed.

Admty 2218/13. Am informed from Rotterdam that Operation XD was carried out at 1600. Tremendous fire can be seen blazing from that direction, presumably oil tanks. (Capt (D) 16, 2331/13)

H.M.G. instruct that all oil stocks in the neighbourhood of Amsterdam are to be destroyed at once, even though local authorities do not agree. (DOD(H) 2217/13 to WALPOLE)

If no other news exist a boat is to be sent to Rotterdam with order that X D party that H.M.G. instructions are that oil stocks at Rotterdam are to be destroyed even though local authorities do not agree. (DOD(H) 2218/13 to Capt (D) 16).

BUT BRAZILIAN FUNDING LOANS TURNED SLIGHTLY EASIER ON PROFIT-

TAKING. REUTER

CH-1

19

15.47 KAFFIRS FIRM IN "STREET" MARKET FEB 28

KAFFIRS ARE ACTIVE IN THE "STREET", WITH VENTERSPOST AT 1-7/8, WEST WITS 4, WRITS 7/3, WESTERN REEFS 16/4-1/2, WESTERN HOLDINGS 13/6, E. DAGGA 31/3, LIBANON 9/7-6/2, AND E. RAND PROP 46/3.

B-2 --REUTER

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Operation Lyster.

13.5.1940
Monday.

Keep steam at 4 hours notice. (Cdr. Farnon-Williams, 1137/13, 6 Ptns. FLORENTINO, etc.)

13.42 GERMANS REPORTED FALLING BACK AT NARVIK

PARIS, MAY 9.: FURTHER LANDINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN NORWAY, WHERE, IT WAS STATED IN FRENCH MILITARY CIRCLES TODAY, OPERATIONS ARE CONTINUING SLOWLY BUT NORMALLY.

14

CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE AT ALL POINTS WITH THE GERMAN TROOPS AT NARVIK, WHO THOUGH RESISTING, ARE WITHDRAWING GRADUALLY IN FACE OF THE ALLIED PRESSURE.

THEY ARE FALLING BACK PARTLY ON THE TOWN OF NARVIK, BUT ABOVE ALL ON A VILLAGE EAST OF NARVIK ALONGSIDE THE RAILWAY.

THE APPALLING WEATHER CONDITIONS WITH FREQUENT SNOWSTORMS AND POOR COMMUNICATIONS ARE GIVEN HERE AS REASONS FOR THE SLOW DEVELOPMENT OF OPERATIONS.

NO ADVANCE BY THE GERMANS NORTH OF NAMSOS IS REPORTED HERE.

M-1 --REUTER

SECRET

13.5.1940

HOME COMMANDS
Dutch Coast.
Operation X.D.

Magnetic Mines. Following from Comdr. Goodenough, Force X.D.A. Add to situation report, magnetic mines laid in inner harbour after departure of CODRINGTON approx. 0230 to-day, and Dutch merchant ship sunk clear of Channel. (KIMBERLEY, 1324/13)

Demolition. Following from N.A., Hague, to pass to Demolition Party, Rotterdam. Unless contrary orders received from Admiralty via Hook, destroy oil tank at 2000 this evening unless physically prevented by local force and then go to Hook. (ends) Have been in communication with Vice-Consul, Rotterdam, but neither he nor I can get in touch with Rotterdam Section of Demolition Party. (Capt. D.16, 1502/13)

Trawlers. Admty. 1406. Humber and Harwich are each to place an extra scuttling charge on board each trawler for the four trawlers already in Holland, informing them and Comdr. Peterson of the instructions in Admty. signal. (C. in C., Nore, 1601)

Situation. From Service Attaches. Military situation no worse, weak spots are C. in C., General and Naval Staffs, and bad intelligence. Big air effort may yet turn the scale. From Naval Attache, if oil tanks started at ebb about 2000 am informed no serious consequences. Propose to implement this part of X.D that arrangements decided on to sink ST.DENIS. (The Hague, 1626/13)

16.27 FRANCE MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER

PARIS, MAY 4.: THE TURN OF EVENTS IN NORWAY HAS BEEN NOTED WITH REGRET BUT WITHOUT PESSIMISM IN FRANCE. CONFIDENT OF ULTIMATE VICTORY, THE FRENCH HAVE TAKEN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS CALMLY AND ARE MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER THAT THEY MUST FINISH ONCE AND FOR ALL WITH GERMAN AGGRESSION.

THERE IS A CERTAIN LIVELINESS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY LOBBIES AND SOME TALK IN POLITICAL CIRCLES THAT THE CHAMBER MAY BE SUMMONED BEFORE THE OFFICIAL DATE, MAY 16, ALTHOUGH SUCH A SETP SEEMS UNLIKELY. --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS. 13.5.40
Monday

SECRET

Operation J. (Princess Juliana + children, etc.
My 2358/12. Royal party embarked. (Capt. D 1
0116/13)

Dutch so so for as to ask that arrangements for evacuation of the Queen and Cabinet may be proposed. Said this unthinkable now, but if Dutch begin to go downhill rapidly - which not anticipated if we bring maximum scale of air attack to bear - Standby arrangements for above evacuation are necessary. (NA, Hague, 1150/13)

Stove sailed HEREWARD with Queen of Netherlands from Hook to Brest-Leno at her request. Also Dutch military Mission headed by Col. Van der Plassche on to Dover and to replenish ammunition. (Capt (D) 16, ~~1202 and 1244~~ 1210/13)

Ref 1210/13 from D.16. Queen of Holland has now expressed a wish to be landed at Harwich. Expect to arrive 1730. (HEREWARD, 1500/13) My 1500. Expect to arrive 1700 (HEREWARD, 1610/13)

09.32 DUTCH RADIO SILENT. MAY 8.

NONE OF THE THREE DUTCH RADIO STATIONS WAS ON THE AIR THIS MORNING.

NEITHER HILVERSUM, 1 OR 2, NOR THE LONG WAVE STATION GAVE THE USUAL BROADCASTS. THE DUTCH SHORT WAVE STATION HUIZEN WAS NOT WORKING EITHER. --REUTER

B-2

HOME COMMANDS 13.5.40
Low Countries Monday

SECRET

Situation Situation so critical that if German advance is not immediately stopped with help of Allied support the struggle will have to end. Immediate assistance ~~could~~ can save situation (On behalf of Cabinet Council, De Geer, Prime Minister 1030/13)

Minister of Defence states German armoured cars have crossed Moerdijk bridges and ~~he~~ he requests bridges near Dordrecht be bombed at once (A Hague Rec. 1830/13)

~~Repeat~~

15.51 SOUTH AFRICAN BUDGET FLASH THREE.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY DOES NOT APPLY TO DIAMOND MINES.

M-1 --REUTER ''' '''

15.51 NO KNOWLEDGE OF TURKISH SHIPS RECALL

ISTANBUL, FEB 28.: COMPETENT AUTHORITIES HERE DENY ALL KNOWLEDGE OF, AND SHIPOWNERS EXPRESS ASTONISHMENT AT THE REPORT ALLEGING THAT THE CABINET HAS ORDERED ALL TURKISH STEAMERS IN FOREIGN WATERS TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY.

IT IS STATED THAT SOME CONTROL OF SHIPPING MIGHT BE ENVISAGED

HOME COMMANDS. SECRET 13.5.1940
Operations. Monday.
Dutch Warships.

S/mis. 013, 020, 021, at Portsmouth and more expected.
Personals for utilisation (VAS 1824/13)

SUMATRA. Condition ~~(battle practice)~~ (FO Hunter 1879/13)

13.46 INVASION EFFECT ON DIAMOND INDUSTRY. MAY 14.

PENDING A CLARIFICATION OF THE NEW SITUATION IN THE LOW COUNTRIES, IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT ANY FURTHER DIAMOND SIGHTS WILL BE HELD IN LONDON.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FOR THE SAFE REMOVAL OF ALL CUT AND UNCUT DIAMONDS IN THE HANDS OF THE INDUSTRY IN ANTWERP AND AMSTERDAM. SHOULD THE SITUATION IN THOSE TOWNS BECOME SO BAD AS TO MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY ON THE DIAMOND CUTTING AND POLISHING BUSINESS THAT HITHERTO FLOURISHED THERE, IT IS THOUGHT THAT THE INDUSTRY MAY BE MOVED TO CENTRES IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM AND SIGHTS WILL THEN ONCE MORE BE HELD. THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE LIKELIHOOD OF THE TRADE MOVING TO THE UNITED STATES, OWING LARGELY TO HIGH LABOUR COSTS IN THAT AREA. --REUTER

SECRET

13.5.40
Monday

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations
Low Countries

Naval assistance in Zealand

Gen. Giraud commanding 7th Army appreciates enemy will attempt occupation of Schouwen and Tholen Islands tonight. French naval forces understood to be going to watch Channel Flushing to Antwerp. Gen Giraud anxious obtain naval watch in Channel South of Schouwen and Tholen to prevent enemy crossing in light draught vessels and Pontoons from these to Walcheren and Bereland Islands. Can you represent this need to appropriate authorities. Ends.

(Air Min. 1840/13. to Admty)

Refugees

934. 1549 from D.16.

Have sent 3 Destroyers to Hook to embark refugees. As Warships are liable to continuous air attack it is urged that future refugees should come in Merchant ships or move overland to Belgium and France.

(C.in.C Nore 1852/13.)

EXCESSIVE IN VIEW OF THE NUMBER OF OFFERINGS.

THE GILT EDGED MARKET HAS ENCOUNTERED SOME SIZEABLE SELLING, PARTICULARLY OF THE LONG-DATEDS. WAR LOAN IS NOW A POINT LOWER AT 98-3/4.

LOSSES IN THE HOME RAILWAY MARKET NOW EXTEND UP TO TWO POINTS IN THE JUNIOR ISSUES.

AMONGST FOREIGNERS JAPANESE BONDS HAVE RECOVERED THEIR EARLIER LOSS, WHILE EGYPTIANS REMAIN STEADY AT THEIR SLIGHTLY LOWER LEVELS.

SMALL SELLING ORDERS FOR KAFFIRS ARE STILL COMING IN FROM THE CAPE, WHILE INDUSTRIALS ARE GIVING WAY TO THE PREVAILING DULL SENTIMENT.

OILS NOW SHOW MINOR LOSSES. --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS.

SECRET

13.5.40
Monday

Dutch ~~Navy~~ warships and merchant ships.

2 S/ms trying to leave New Waterway tonight. Phase five event. Speed 20 knots (NA Hague 405/13 to Admty.)

17.27. KENYA CALLS UP MORE MEN

.....NAIROBI, MAY 14.....THE KENYA GOVERNMENT IS TAKING A NUMBER OF FRESH MILITARY PRECAUTIONS, INCLUDING THE CALLING UP OF MEN HITHERTO EXEMPTED FROM SERVICE. --REUTER

CH-1

17.36. RESTRICTED DIAMOND "SIGHTS" TO BE HELD MAY 14.

DESPITE THE DISLOCATION OF THE CONTINENTAL DIAMOND INDUSTRY AS A RESULT OF THE INVASION OF THE LOW COUNTRIES, THE DIAMOND TRADING COMPANY HAS NOW DECIDED TO HOLD A RESTRICTED SERIES OF SIGHTS NEXT WEEK ON MAY 21 AND 22. ONLY UNITED STATES BUYERS WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THESE SIGHTS.

IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO STATE THAT STOCKS OF DIAMONDS PREVIOUSLY HELD IN ANTWERP HAME ARRIVED SAFELY IN THIS COUNTRY. --REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

13. 5.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Dutch Shipping

Following ships available troop transport to Holland now at Gravesend, PRINCESS BEATRIX, KONIGIN EMMA, MECKLENBURG, ORANGE NASSAU. None degaussed. Also BATAVIER II and IV, 15 knots, already degaussed. (Dutch Legation, London, 1100/13)

Scheveningen Bank light vessel still manned. If opportunity arises, please collect crew. (Dutch Chief of Naval Staff, no T.O.O., 13/5)

IS TOLD?

"WHAT HAS BEEN THE EFFECT ON THE GERMAN PEOPLE OF THE SUDDEN IMMENSE FACE ABOUT OF HITLER'S POLICY TO RUSSIA, OF THE ALLIANCE WITH STALIN, OF THE ALOOFNESS FROM ITALY, AND OF THE COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF THE REPEATED PROMISE THAT GERMANY WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN WAR?"

B-2 --REUTER

09.24 SOVIET OIL FOR BULGARIA

SOFIA, FEB 28: A 10,000-TON OIL TANKER ARRIVED AT VERNA LAST NIGHT WITH THE FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF SOVIET OIL TO BE FURNISHED TO BULGARIA UNDER THE NEW SOVIET-BULGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT.

THE TANKER'S CREW WERE GIVEN A WARM WELCOME AT THE PORT.

B-2 --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS.+
Operationa.

SECRET

13.5.1940
Monday.

Norway - Narvik, Bodo, Kirkenes.

ESKIMO — Recommend ESKIMO be moved soonest possible. Officers and men suffering from great nervous strain. (C.S. 20, 1112/13) To be taken in tow by VINDICTIVE and go to Skaaland, 68° 35' 30" N., 16° 31' 30" E. (FO. Narvik 1123/13)

Kirkenes — Dr. view of satisfactory nature of your report, return to Scapa with 2 destroyers. (FO Narvik to FOC I C.S. 1059/13) Position, etc., (FOC I C.S., 1600/13) DEVONSHIRE to remain in north for present. (C-in-C HF 0007/14)

Gubbins Flotilla. — Suggesting a submarine operates in Gubbins Flotilla area. (C-in-C HF 1647/13) TRUANT to proceed Harstad (VAS 2357/13) Gubbins Flotilla sailing P.M. today. (ACOS, 1132/13) To go to Skjefjord and not Bodo (OOD (H) 1415/13)

BELFORT — French Admty require BELFORT to proceed Narvik area. Direction. (C-in-C HF 1838/13)

Balloon Barrage. — 5840 hydrogen cylinders to be sent in MANELA for balloon barrage, Narvik. (OOD(H) 1932/13)

ENTERPRISE — Left Bodo at request of Norwegian and British authorities who fear bombers might be attracted, proceeding Lavangen. (ENTERPRISE 1349/13)

GLORIOUS FURIOUS — In view of paramount importance having modern fighters here, consider it essential GLORIOUS and FURIOUS should be within 200 miles of Norwegian coast in vicinity of Lofoten Islands by 18/5. (FO Narvik, 1953/13)

S-1 --REUTER.

8

TT2.03 GERMAN COMMUNIQUE.

BERLIN, MAY 8: "THE GERMAN AIR FORCE AGAIN ATTACKED ENEMY NAVAL FORCES NEAR NARVIK", SAYS TODAY'S OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND.

"TWO CRUISERS WERE HIT. ENEMY POSITIONS AND MARCHING COLUMNS WERE SUCCESSFULLY BOMBED.

"IN AN AERIAL BATTLE A BRITISH FIGHTER WAS BROUGHT DOWN EAST OF NARVIK.

"IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN NORWAY THE LAST REMAINDERS OF

HOME COMMANDS. 13.5.40.
Monday.
Norway (Continued)

SECRET

Bjerkvik Landing. Successful combined operation carried out 0100/13. 2 Battalions Foreign legion landed Bjerkvik with object of joining hands with Chasseurs operating in Hartvig area and occupying Odi Fjord Peninsula. Resistance machine gun and rifle fire met operations in pre dawn bombardment. Naval casualties 1 officer 1 rating w. (CO Narvik 1954/13)

Minesweeping Norwegian Naval authorities at Bodo request swept Channel be maintained between the 100 fathom line and shore between Storoden and Bremnesodden to facilitate passage of Norwegian Coastguard and supply vessels. (ENTERPRISE, 1230/13)

TRUANT could proceed 15/5 to patrol in Harstad area. (VAS 1134/13)
Will leave Rosyth am. 16/5 for Harstad
(VAS, 2351/13)

B.U.P.

German transports and destroyers were sighted steaming southward off Swedish Coast ~~yesterday~~ 13/5, it was revealed in Gothenburg. The ships kept outside Swedish territorial waters. (B.U.P. report, 0810/14)

SOVIET UNION ON THE SUBJECT OF TRADE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

16.01 BOOTS BONUS DIVIDEND. MAY 8.

THE DIRECTORS OF BOOTS PURE DRUG CO LTD ANNOUNCE THAT, SUBJECT TO AUDIT, THE NET PROFITS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1940 AMOUNT TO £782,467, AFTER PROVIDING FOR INCOME TAX AND E.P.T., ETC (AGAINST £776,292 FOR THE PRECEDING YEARLM

IN ADDITION TO THE FOUR INTERIM DIVIDENDS ALREADY PAID

HOME COMMANDS.

13/5

SECRET

Norway - Submarines.

PORPOISE, NARWHAL } Laying mines in Oslo Fiord between 16/5 and 18/5. (Vaagsø, 2434/13)

16.06 CHAMBERLAIN...3

"THEY HAVE SHOWN IT IN HARD FIGHTING, STOLID ENDURANCE AND SKILFUL MOVEMENT CLOSE AS THEY WERE TO SUPERIOR FORCES WITH SUPERIOR EQUIPMENT.

"THEY DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN EVERY RESPECT AND MAN TO MAN SHOWED THEMSELVES SUPERIOR TO THEIR FOES (CHEERS).

"I DO NOT PROPOSE THIS AFTERNOON TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE M LITARY OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN NORWAY.

"WHAT I RATHER WANT TO DO IS TO PRESENT TO THE HOUSE A PICTURE OF THE SITUATION AND ALSO TO CONSIDER CERTAIN CRITICISMS OF THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE.

B-2 SEE 4...

HOME COMMANDS.

13-5-40

SECRET

Norwegian Convoys.

N.P. 3. Sailed. Route. (To Admlty 2129/13)

N.P. 4 } Admlty. 1659/12. 3 escorts can be provided (C-in-C HF
N.S. 4 } 1215/13)

"TROOP CONCENTRATIONS, TRANSPORT COLUMNS, STATIONS, TROOPS ON THE MARCH AND TRANSPORT CARS BEHIND THE BELGIAN AND FRENCH LINES WERE EFFECTIVELY ATTACKED.

"ON THE DUTCH-BELGIAN COAST TRANSPORT SHIPS AND SUPPLIES LANDED FROM THEM WERE ATTACKED. AT FLUSHING THREE TRANSPORT SHIPS AND A TANKER WERE HIT, AND IN THE NORTH SEA AN ENEMY DESTROYER WAS DAMAGED BY BOMBS.

"ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 11 SINGLE PLANES FLEW OVER WEST GERMANY AND AGAIN ATTACKED A NUMBER OF NON-MILITARY OBJECTIVES WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR RESULT.

"OUR LOSS IN PLANES IN COMPARISON WITH OUR SUCCESSES CAN AGAIN BE DESCRIBED AS SLIGHT. THIRTY-FIVE PLANES ARE MISSING.

"IN NORWAY THE SITUATION IS UNCHANGED. AT NARVIK ENEMY SEA AND LAND FIGHTING FORCES WERE ATTACKED BY OUR AIR FORCE. ONE DESTROYER WAS SUNK AND ANOTHER DAMAGED". --REUTER

CH-1

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Norway

13.5.1940
Monday

Trawlers.
Drifters.

Five trawlers armed with Lewis guns will leave Scapa for Skjel Fiord p.m.13/5, have R/T communication to a range of about 40 miles only. Five R.N. Patrol Service drifters' crews are held in readiness for transport to Bodo and to take over local craft if required. (D.O.D.(H), 1422/13)

Gubbins Flotilla.

re TRUANT to operate a patrol, further to my 1647/13. (C.in C.H.F., 1651/13)

Landing Grounds.

Asking for report on suitability of Salameen, 68.52' N., 17.51' E., and Elevegardsmoen, 68.40' N., 17.30' E., as advance landing grounds. (Air Ministry, to Wing-Comdr. Atcherley, 1836/13)

09.47 DUTCH WEST INDIES LANDING REACTION. MAY 13.

WHILE THE U.S. %9.34,.3,5 8' 4309453$ 59 ?3 !7))6 '-58'!83$ IN RESPECT OF THE LANDING OF ALLIED UNITS IN THE DUTCH WEST INDIES, JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE CIRCLES ARE REPRESENTED AS PEING "GREATLY CONCERNED".

IT IS SUGGESTED IN TOKYO THAT THE LANDING RUNS COUNTER TO THE SPIRIT OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT THAT IT WOULD WAIVE OFFERS OF PROTECTION BY ANY FOREIGN POWER REGARDING ITS COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

GERMAN COMMENT, ISSUED THROUGH THE XFICIAL NEWS AGENCY, FOLLOWS HER OFT-USED FORMULA:

"GERMANY HAS NO TERRITORIAL DEMANDS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD".

S-2 --REUTER.

SECRET

13.5.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Norway

Bardufoss.

Your 1450/12. Air Ministry confirm position Bardufoss landing ground 69.03' N., 18.31' E., about two kilometres west of village.
(D D I C., 1350/13, to GLORIOUS)

THE BELGIAN POSITIONS.

THE BELGIAN FORCES ARE FIGHTING IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH." --REUTER.

S-1

13.53 U.S. ENVOY SEES FRENCH PREMIER.

PARIS, MAY 13: M. REYNAUD RECEIVED MR WILLIAM C. BULLITT, THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN PARIS, THIS MORNING.

HE ALSO RECEIVED DR LOUDON, THE DUTCH MINISTER, AND M. MANDEL, THE FRENCH MINISTER FOR THE COLONIES.

S-1 --REUTER.

SECRET

13.5.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Norwegian Convoys

N.S.3. Early arrival in Narvik area of five M.T. ships in N.S.3 is of first importance. Other ships if they delay convoy are to follow behind. (D.O.D.(H), 1153/13) Names of ships, and repeating instruction. (C.in C.H.F.,1400/13) R.V. (C.in C.,Rosyth,2024/13)

N.S.4. EMPIRE ABILITY. No McLcC's will be embarked in EMPIRE ABILITY. Fast motor boats and horse boats, also army launches, to be embarked Southampton for Narvik. Convoy N.S.4 will not proceed Scapa, and should be routed direct from Clyde to Narvik. (D.O.D.(H), 1922/13)

13.40 GILT-EDGED MODERATELY ACTIVE. MAY 13.

THERE IS STILL VERY LITTLE ACTUAL TRADING, BUT THE HOUSE IS FIRM AND THE UNDERTONE QUITE GOOD.

GILT-EDGED ARE MODERATELY ACTIVE AND AFTER A SLIGHT PERIOD OF HESITATION ARE GOING AHEAD AGAIN.

NO FRESH CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE FOREIGN MARKET OR OIL SHARES, BUT RAILS HAVE MADE A COMPLETE RECOVERY AND THERE IS A FAIR VOLUME OF CAPE BUYING IN THE KAFFIR MARKET.

INDUSTRIALS CONTINUE TO QUIETLY IMPROVE, MOST OF THE HEAVIES SHOW SMALL GAINS AND THE STORES GROUP IS BETTER, WITH WOOLWORTH AT 67/- AND MARKS AND SPENCER AT 47/-. BREWERIES RECORD SOME GAINS, WHILE DISTILLERS HAVE RISEN TO 64/3. --REUTER.

S-2

SECRET

13.5.1940

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Iceland - Operation Fork.

Trawler Patrols. KINGSTON JACINTH's 2300/12. Any Germans should be captured and transferred to the ship on N. P. 51. (C. in C.,H.F., 1035/13) My 0945/13. Any Germans are to be captured and transferred to H.M.S. CALIFORNIA. (F O C N P., 1122/13)

ONLY A FEW DEFENCE PATROLS ARE LEFT IN THE TOWN.

S-2 --REUTER.

6

14.30 "SACRIFICES FROM ALL" - MR S. HUDSON. FEP 26.

EXPORT TRADE IN WARTIME IS A VITAL NECESSITY SAID MR R.S. HUDSON, SECRETARY FOR OVERSEAS TRADE, SPEAKING AT GLASGOW TODAY.

"IF WE ARE TO OBTAIN EFFORTS ON THE GRAND SCALE, ON THE HEROIC SCALE, WHICH ARE NECESSARY, EVERY MAN AND WOMAN MUST BE WILLING TO INCUR SACRIFICES," HE DECLARED. "THE NECESSITIES FOR THESE ARISE OUT OF THE VERY CONDITIONS OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE".

IN WAR ALL SORTS OF THINGS CROPPED UP TO INTERFERE WITH THE SMOOTH WORKING OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TO MAKE IT LESS EASY FOR US TO PAY FOR THE GOODS WE WANTED.

CAUTION MUST IMPOSE A LIMIT TO THE SALE OF OUR GOLD AND

SECRET

13.5.1940

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Allied Submarines

CLYDE — One enemy transport, position, course and speed are XKOX 4834, 130, 16. Am chasing. (CLYDE, 1316/13) My 1315. Gun engagement broken off due to low visibility. Transport last seen in XKND 26 7, course 130 deg. Am proceeding to intercept in position PFJV, 1500. (CLYDE, 1530/13).

09.33 U.S. BATTLE FLEET STAYING IN HAWAIIAN WATERS

NEW YORK, MAY 8: THE U.S. BATTLE FLEET, WHICH HAS BEEN ENGAGED ON MANOEUVRES IN THE PACIFIC, HAS BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION FOR AN INDEFINITE STAY IN HAWAIIAN WATERS INSTEAD OF RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES, AS SCHEDULED, IT IS ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS CAUSING SPECULATION AS TO WHETHER OFFICIALS THOUGHT THE DECISION WOULD HAVE A DETERRING EFFECT ON THE JAPANESE FROM MOVING IN TO GIVE "PROTECTION" IN THE EVENT OF THE NETHERLANDS BEING INVOLVED IN WAR.

B-2 --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS 13.5.40

Air Monday

Enemy air activity.

SECRET

Re. 0724 from Whitehall W/T (unknown vessel attacked by aeroplanes - sinking) am proceeding to assistance expect to arrive 0930 (VENOMOUS 0825/13)

MAY 6: TWO BRITISH SUNDERLAND FLYING BOATS WERE ATTACKED AND DAMAGED BY MACHINE GUN FIRE WHILE AT ANCHOR OFF THE COAST OF NORWAY YESTERDAY, IT WAS LEARNED AT THE AIR MINISTRY TODAY. --REUTER.

S-2

18.10 GERMAN-YUGOSLAV TRADE TALKS.

BELGRADE, MAY 6. A MEETING OF THE PERMANENT GERMAN-YUGOSLAV TRADE COMMISSION OPENS HERE TOMORROW.

QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDE QUOTAS FOR EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE REICH AND THE REGULATION OF TRADE EXCHANGES BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE PROTECTORATE OF BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA. --REUTER.

S-2

SECRET

13
~~11~~.5.1940
From ~~Satur~~day.

HOME COMMANDS.
Air.
Enemy Air Activity.

Hook. Disembarkation at Hook of Stollard unopposed but interrupted by constant air raid alarms, hostile aircraft spotted from time to time, no bombing. (Capt O.16, 0732/13)

Ymuiden Being bombed by 1 a/c (KIMBERLEY 1120/13)

7S Convoy. ~~Bombed~~ Shadowed LSDN 0448 (AUCKLAND 1722/13)
Convoy not attacked (AUCKLAND 1731/13)

Enemy a/c bombing Hook. (MALCOLM, 2035/13)

VERSATILE Hit, Hook (MALCOLM, 2045/13)

09.19 REUTERS COMMERCIAL TICKER

MONDAY, MAY 6TH, 1940.

GOOD MORNING.

/

END PROOF CONTINUATION REPORTS

ANKARA, MAY 6.:; !9438%, 430945' 9, 574:8'£ 54990 :9,:,54-589,'

ON THE GREEK NRONTIER ARE CATGORICALLY DENIED HERE.

~~THESE RUMOURS IT IS STATED ALLEGED THAT GREEK~~

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

13-5-40
Monday

Enemy Air Activity

SECRET

Hook — Bombed (W/T Station, Hook, 0500/13)

VALOROUS — Bombed CPOX 5241 (VALOROUS 0647/13
2 Heinkels, no hits (0705/13)

KIMBERLEY — Bombed CPOX 2826 (KIMBERLEY 1131/13)
7 bombs, 4 near merchant ship, no hits.
CPOX 1201 (KIMBERLEY 1429/13)

Unknown ship. — Bombed, sinking West Hinder, north side, assistance wanted, going lifeboats. (
via Scheveningen Radio 0724/13)
Ref. 0724/13. Am proceeding to assist, expect arrive 0930. (VENOMOUS, 0825/13)

SS. TETI — Attacked from air at 1325 GMT, position PBW 20 degrees. (TETI 1326/13)

SS. BUSSUM — Dutch 3,636 tons. (Via Dover 1316/13, VENOMOUS 0015/14)
Bombed ~~(illegible)~~ near West Hinder Bank at 0710/13.
Towed to N. Goodwin by HARRIER.

THE ENEMY MADE AN IMPORTANT EFFORT IN THE REGION OF THE PELGIAN ARDENNES WHERE VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS TOOK PLACE.

"FIGHTING STARTED AGAIN ON THE LUXEMBOURG FRONTIER.

"THE ENEMY ALSO ATTACKED OUR ADVANCE POSITIONS PETWEEN THE FOREST OF WARNDT AND THE SAAR.

"NOTHING OF IMPORTANCE TO REPORT ON THE EASTERN PART OF THE FRONT PETWEEN THE SAAR AND THE SWISS FRONTIER.

"GERMAN AVIATION SHOWED GREAT ACTIVITY ESPECIALLY IN NORTH-EASTERN FRANCE. IT WAS ATTACKED PY THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCE AND BY ALLIED AIRCRAFT.

"THIRTY ENEMY PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN DURING THE DAY.

"IT IS POINTED OUT THAT OF THE GERMAN AEROPLANES DESTROYED DURING FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, SOME THIRTY WERE PROUGHT DOWN PY OUR ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS".

.....G E R M A N Y.....

"WITH CLOSE COOPERATION PETWEEN THE LAND AND AIR FORCES, THE GERMAN ATTACK IN THE WEST IS PROGRESSING RAPIDLY ALONG THE WHOLE FRONT", SAYS THE LATEST GERMAN HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE.

"IN THE NORTH OF HOLLAND GERMAN TROOPS HAVE OCCUPIED THE PROVINCE OF GRONINGEN. THEY HAVE REACHED HARLINGEN AND THE EAST COAST OF THE ZUIDER ZEE.

"AFTER WE HAVE PROKEN THROUGH THE HSSEL POSITIONS, THE

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Air

13.5.1940
Monday

Enemy Air Activity.

HESPERUS — Near miss, bomb damage. Ship seaworthy.
(F.O., Narvik, 2357/13)

13.31 JAPANESE SUPREME WAR COUNCIL MEETS

TOKYO, FEB 26: THE JAPANESE SUPREME WAR COUNCIL MET TODAY AT THE IMPERIAL COURT IN THE PRESENCE OF THE EMPEROR. IMPORTANT QUESTIONS WERE DISCUSSED, ACCORDING TO THE DOMEI AGENCY.

B-2 --REUTER

13.32 INDIAN RICE CROP.

CALCUTTA, FEB 26: THE FINAL ALL-INDIA RICE FORECAST FOR THE 1939-40 CROP, ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS, IS 72,340,000 ACRES, A DECREASE OF ONE PER CENT ON LAST YEAR AND 25,257,000 TONS, AN INCREASE

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Air

13.5.1940

Enemy Air Activity

PELLICE — Italian, arrived from Beachy Head, reports at 1600 G M T today was fired on by air plane, 50.04' N., 4.28' W. Plane was monoplane painted all red believed to be converted mail plane. State A/A guns heard from shore at same time. (C.C.S.O.,Falmouth, 2041/13)

"SO FAR AS A LONG DISTANCE VIEW OF THE WAR IS CONCERNED, AND WHATEVER MAY EMERGE FROM TOMORROW'S DEBATE, THE SPIRIT OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE HEARTENED AND STRENGTHENED BY THIS GIVE AND TAKE IN THE OPEN."

"THIS AMAZING GIVE AND TAKE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S SPOKESMAN AND ITS CRITICS WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE IN ANY OTHER EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT", SAYS THE NEW YORK 'TIMES'.

"THE DIVISION OF OPINION WAS SHARP, BUT THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT IT WAS A DIVISION OF OPINION ON WAYS ALONE AND NOT ON ENDS.

"AT NO POINT IN THE DEBATE WAS THERE THE SLIGHTEST SUGGESTION OF WEAKNESS OF WILL OR DISAGREEMENT AS TO THE PURPOSE OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE."

THE NEW YORK 'DAILY NEWS' SAQS IT SUSPECTS THAT THERE IS "AN ALL BUT FATAL COMPLACENCY IN HIGH ALLIED MILITARY AND POLITICAL CIRCLES.

"BLUFF AND COMFORTABLE SELF-KIDDING, WE MEAN, ABOUT HOW THE ALLIES WON LAST TIME AND CAN'T FAIL THIS TIME - AND A

[illegible] HARM."

SITUATION REPORT 13.5.40
Tuesday

Low Countries.

SECRET

~~Zuider~~
~~Zee~~
Helder,
~~Zuider~~
~~Zee~~.
Texel,
Zuider
Zee.

3 MTB's entered the Zuider Zee from Ymuiden during the night.
VALOROUS entered the Texel Friday but her local pilot would not take her far enough for her to operate against the German troops on the E shore of the Zuider Zee, and she left at 1600. One of her escorting Blenheims shot down a ME110.
One 3 MTB's in the Zuider Zee are to be reinforced by five 60 ft. boats leaving Harwich 0900/14, weather permitting.

Ymuiden SS PERSEUS with the remaining Dutch gold left Ymuiden 0400/13 escorted by V/14F, ~~and~~ and proceeded to the Thames Estuary.
SS PHRONTIOS (Dutch) with 900 prisoners of war left Ymuiden 1030/13 for Downs.
WALPOLE left Ymuiden 2200/13 with diamonds.

S-1

11.09 BRITISH BATTLESHIP SUNK - GERMAN REPORT.

BERLIN, MAY 4: THE OFFICIAL GERMAN NEWS AGENCY TODAY CARRIES AN OSLO TELEGRAM SAYING THAT ACCORDING TO A "RELIABLE GERMAN SOURCE AT TRONDHJEM" WAVES OF GERMAN FIGHTER-BOMBERS ATTACKED A BRITISH BATTLESHIP OF THE WARSPITE CLASS OFF TRONDHJEM AND CONTINUED BOMBING UNTIL SHE SANK IN FLAMES.

S-1 --REUTER.

War Diary. SITUATION REPORT.

SECRET

~~HOME COMMANDS.~~
~~Movements.~~

13
~~11~~.5.1940
Mon ~~Satur~~day.

~~Dutch Coast~~
~~Low Countries.~~ Guards

Hook A composite battalion of about 650 men landed at the Hook early this morning. A second battalion may be sent on the night of 14th. HEREWARD arrived during the night 12/13 to support the Regulus landed at the Hook 12/5, and Capt D 16 in MALCOLM with VERSATILE and VIVIEN commenced operating there at daylight today. There was an air raid at 0500 but the actual landing of the troops was unopposed. The Marines have been ordered to remain at Hook until wanted to return.

Royal Engines. Princess Juliana with her husband and children arrived at Harwich this morning in CODRINGTON from Ymuiden. HEREWARD left Hook at ~~noon~~ with the Queen of the Netherlands and arrived at Harwich at 5 pm.

SECRET

SITUATION REPORT 13/5/40
Monday

Low Countries

Rotterdam. HEREWARD went up the river at midnight 12/5. The Holland Amerika Line and the 28,291 ton liner STATENDAM were reported to be on fire at that time. HEREWARD reported that bombardment of the ~~German~~ aerodrome ~~shelling~~ in the hands of the Germans, south of Rotterdam, was not practicable.

The demolition parties at Amsterdam and Rotterdam have been instructed to destroy the oil tanks at those places. At Rotterdam this operation was carried out at 1600/13.

Dieppe. The SNO has closed the port to about 200 Dutch trawlers which wish to enter, for fear of 5th column activity.

~~Flushing. The French are strongly established~~

THE "ALGEMEEN HANDELSBLAD" SAYS THAT HOLLAND'S GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION IN EUROPE IS NOT ONE THAT ALLOWS ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH TAKES ITS TASK SERIOUSLY TO RUN ANY RISK.

IT ADDS: "HOLLAND WILL BE READY FOR ALL EVENTUALITIES. SHE DOES NOT SEEK TO PROVOKE ANYBODY BUT SHE IS ALSO UNWILLING TO BE HERSELF PROVOKED".

EVIDENCE OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE DUTCH PEOPLE TO DEFEND THEIR LIBERTY IS TO BE SEEN ON ALL SIDES.

ON THE ROADS HEAVY ARMY TRANSPORTS ARE TO BE SEEN.

SOME OF TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS HAVE NOTICES TO THEIR READERS EXPLAINING THAT DELIVERIES MAY BE LATE OWING TO THE USE OF THE RAILWAYS BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

THERE IS NOWHERE ANY SIGN OF UNDUE ALARM BUT THERE ARE MANY MANIFESTATIONS OF DEEP NATIONAL SPIRIT.

COMMUNICATIONS BY TELEPHONE AND TELEPRINTER WHICH WERE SUSPENDED AT TEN O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT WERE RESTORED THIS MORNING AFTER HAVING BEEN INTERRUPTED FOR ABOUT TEN HOURS. --REUTER.

SITUATION REPORT. 13.5.40
Monday
Norway.

SECRET

~~A Combined operation was~~
~~Peace is no further news of major operations~~
~~in the Narvik area~~. There is a shortage of oil at Narvik: oiler OLEANDER is in Convoy NS 3 of 135 ships which is being sent. DEVONSHIRE, who is returning to Narvik, is to inquire at Tromso whether to embark the remaining rotors of Norwegian A/C.

ENTERPRISE left Bodo to avoid drawing unnecessary attention to the place. ESKIMO who has been heavily bombed for some days, is to be towed by VINDICTIVE from Skjel Fiord to a safer anchorage. SS ROYAL ULSTERMAN landed her troops at Bodo.

CLYDE intercepted a German Transport in the Stadtlander area and boarded her, but low visibility forced her to break off the engagement.

A combined operation was successfully carried out at 0100/13, when 2 battalions of Foreign Legion were landed at Bjervik with the object of joining hands with the Chasseurs.

09.50 BRUSSELS AND ANTWERP BOMBED.

PARIS, MAY 10: BOMBS HAVE FALLEN ON BRUSSELS WHERE SEVERAL HOUSES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

THE BELGIAN EMBASSY LEARNS THAT ANTWERP WAS BOMBED BY 37 PLANES. A MILITARY HOSPITAL HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

S-1 --REUTER.

09.51 RAILWAY STATION DESTROYED.

PARIS, MAY 10: JEMELLE RAILWAY STATION, IN THE BELGIAN PROVINCE OF LUXEMBOURG, WAS DESTROYED BY ENEMY PLANES.

SITUATION REPORT

SECRET

13.5.40
Morn.

~~Enemy air activity.~~

Enemy air activity. Continued to be intense over Holland, Belgium and Northern France, throughout the day, including reconnaissance, troop carrying and bombing. Extensive bombing took place at Ymuiden and the Hook, and a number of ships operating off the Dutch coast were attacked. The only ships hit or damaged was VERSATILE. Enemy a/c also bombed a group of 4 merchant ships NNW of Hook, but no damage was done.

The Dutch SS BUSSUM was bombed and hit off the West Hinder L.V. but was towed in. 3 enemy a/c's were sighted approaching FS convoy 20 miles ENE of Cromer at 1730, but the convoy was not attacked.

Enemy air activity in the Narvik area continues.

S-1

10.23 FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

PARIS, MAY 8: THIS MORNING'S FRENCH COMMUNIQUE STATES:

"ARTILLERY ACTIVITY ON BOTH SIDES CONTINUED DURING THE NIGHT AT VARIOUS POINTS OF THE FRONT". --REUTER.

S-1

SITUATION REPORT 13.5.40
Monday.

General.

SECRET

British Air. activity. In addition to normal patrols and searches, special searches were flown during the afternoon to look for enemy MTB's, of which none was seen.

One of our a/c's ~~attack~~ on reconnaissance attacked a force of 7 minesweepers near Horns Ref. None was hit, but one was observed to be stopped after a near miss.

Italy. Anti-British agitation continues in Rome, and the attitude of the Italian Govt. is seriously threatening the position and independence of the Vatican.

14.19 ADD 13.55 "ITALIAN COLLIERS SAIL"

IT IS POINTED OUT THAT THE COAL ON BOARD WAS BOUGHT IN GERMANY SOME TIME AGO BUT ITS DELIVERY AT ROTTERDAM WAS HELD UP BY ICE BARRIERS.

ALL GERMAN COAL AWAITING SHIPMENT AT ROTTERDAM FOR ITALY HAS NOW BEEN CLEARED, AND IT IS STATED THAT NO MORE ITALIAN COLLIERS ARE EXPECTED.

THE FOURTEEN SHIPS TOTAL ABOUT 180,000 TONS. --REUTER

M-2

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING. SECRET

12
1.5.1940
~~Thursday.~~
Sunday

S/M's Attacked.

About 0001. By French S/M AMAZONE, 52.55' N., 4.28' E., 349° Ymuiden 30'. Reported as unsuccessful. (I.C., 04~~2~~45/40)
(AMAZONE 0001/12, 0129/12)

~~0327~~

15.30 LATE SUPPORT FOR GILT-EDGED MAY 9.

THE HESITATION AND RATHER EASIER TREND WHICH CHARACTERISED THE EARLY DEALINGS DISAPPEARED ON THE APPEARANCE OF A RENEWED PROFESSIONAL DEMAND FOR GILT-EDGED WHICH CLOSED AN 1/8TH TO 1/4 HIGHER AND AT THE BEST OF THE DAY.

INDUSTRIALS, PARTICULARLY THE LEADERS, SHOOK OFF THEIR RECENT EASIER TENDENCY ON WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS "BEAR-COVERING".

THE OUTSTANDING MOVEMENT IN THE FOREIGN MARKET WAS THE DECLINE IN BRAZILIAN FUNDING BONDS AND A DROP OF FIVE POINTS IN SUEZ CANALS TO 80.

THE GOLD MINING GROUPS WERE BETTER GENERALLY ENCOURAGED BY

SECRET

12.5.1940
Sunday.

S/M's Reported.

Estimated dispositions.

One in about 56.17' N., 2.08' E., p.m. 11/5.
No other indications from which deductions can be drawn. (D.D.I.C., 1148/12)

1316 Imperial Airways a/c sighted U-boat 58° 7'N 1° 0'E which submerged on sighting a/c (IC0449/40)

2330/11 Drifter SILVER NIGHT letters she saw s/m near Outer Dowsing LV/S. C.4 (FO Humber 1556/12)

13.45 STOCK MARKETS QUIETER. MAY 8.

THE TONE OF THE HOUSE HAS BECOME A LITTLE SUBDUED, A SLIGHT TECHNICAL REACTION HAS TAKEN PLACE IN GILT EDGED, BUT THE CORPORATION, COLONIAL AND INDIA STOCKS HOLD STEADY.

KAFFIRS CONTINUE VERY FIRM, BUT THERE IS NOW LESS BUSINESS ABOUT.

INDUSTRIALS FOR THE MOST PART ARE EASIER, TOBACCOS AND TEXTILES HAVE BOTH LOST GROUND AND THE CABLE AND WIRELESS ISSUES HAVE TURNED EASIER, THE ORDINARY DECLINING TO 54.

THE TENDENCY IN THE OIL MARKET REMAINS HEAVY, THOUGH ROYAL DUTCH HAVE RECOVERED TO AROUND 25.

U BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING 12.5.40 Sunday

Ships attacked

SECRET

~~SS PRINCESS JULIANA~~ (2408 tons) ~~Carrying troops from Flushing to Ymuiden was~~ mined aflost at 1700. WILD SWAN and HAVOCK took survivors to Ymuiden. ~~HAVOCK to take confidential papers.~~ (HYPERION 1308/12)

(see also air)
Typist.
Leave this in.

ST. DENIS — Sunk by magnetic mine in route between Hook and Rotterdam, approx. 51° 54' N., 04° 21' E. This is same position that pilot cutter carrying pilot was sunk as channel is partially blocked. (HYPERION, 1105/12)

AMAZONE — French s/m was unsuccessfully attacked twice, viz. about 0001/12 in 52°55' N 4°28' E (349° Ymuiden 30 miles) after which she attacked the enemy U-boat. The second attack on AMAZONE was made at 0327/12 in 52°53' N 4°28' E (244° Helder 10 miles) and was unsuccessful (IC 0445/40 0449/40, AMAZONE 0001/12, 0129/12 2340/12)

ROOK — NA Hague reports wreck near entrance to Noord Geul 51°53.6' N 4°19.8' E (DDIC 1310/12)

CONFRONTED THE DEMOCRACYS NATIONS, AND THE ONE COMFORT TO BE DRAWN FROM IT IS THE FACT THAT IT HAS AT LAST SHOCKED THE BRITISH PEOPLE TO THE CORE OF THEIR BEING.

"WHETHER THEY CAN REPLACE THE GOVERNMENT OF ELDERLY CAUTIOUS MEN WHICH HAS BROUGHT THEM TO THIS POINT, THE NEXT FEW DAYS SHOULD TELL.

"BUT THEY KNOW NOW AT LEAST THAT IT REALLY IS A WAR WHICH THEY ARE FIGHTING, THAT WARS CANNOT BE WON BY WAITING, AND THAT IF THEY WAIT MUCH LONGER TO FIND THE ENERGY, BOLDNESS AND IMAGINATION WHICH WILL RESTORE THEM THE INITIATIVE, THE ALLIES ARE GOING TO LOSE THIS WAR." --REUTER

B-1

SECRET

12.5.1940
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

M.V. Vermeer

INGO (2300 tons) Pres ubat arrived 12/5 at Dubrovnik taken with bauxite destined for Germany. Leaves 14/5 for Trieste.

15.34 LONDON EXCHANGES MAY 2.

NEW YORK 4.02-1/2 - 4.03-1/2 PARIS 176-1/2 - 176-3/4

AMSTERDAM 7.53/7.58 BELGIUM 23.85/24.00 CANADA 4.43/4.47

B'AIRES 17.05/17.30 SWISS 17.85/17.95 STOCKHOLM 16.85/16.95

JAVA 7.47/7.55

ITALY 68.75 MADRID 39.00 OFFRD HELSINGFORS 187.00

RIO 3.46 OFFRD MONTEVIDEO 26.50 PORTUGAL 103.12

BUCHAREST 840 OFFRD BELGRADE 148 OFFRD BUDAPEST 19.25 OFFRD

BULGARIA 289 OFFRD ATHENS 540 OFFRD ESTONIA 14.37 OFFRD

LATVIA 18.06 OFFRD INDIA 1/6 TURKEY 515 OFFRD

EGYPT 97.50 LITHUANIA 20.12 OFFRD JAPAN 1/4-7/64

SINGAPORE 2/4-3/16 HONGKONG 1/2-29/32 SHANGHAI 3-3/8

AUSTRALIA £125 OFFRD N Z £124-3/8 OFFRD S A £100-1/4 OFFRD

BOMBAY ON LONDON 1/5-31/32 --REUTER

M-2

12, 5, 40

German Merchant Ships.
Home Commands.

ANHALT (5870 tons) ordered 12/5 to proceed to Hamburg to discharge, load, and for orders. (ANHALT was in collision off Hoofden 12/2)(IC 0449/40)

HOHENHORN (not listed at Lloyds) ordered to proceed to Stettin 12/5 (IC 0449/40)

SIMON VON VTRECHT (4949 tons) ordered 12/5 to load at Oxelosund and not Soffe. (IC 0449/40)

SECRET

15.38 DUTCH SHIP LOST

AMSTERDAM, MAY 9.: THE DUTCH TRAWLER GLORIA OF KATWIJK AND HER CREW OF SEVEN, WHICH HAS BEEN MISSING FOR OVER A FORTNIGHT, IS NOW FEARED TO HAVE BEEN LOST.

NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD OF HER SINCE SHE LEFT THE PORT OF IJMUIDEN ON APRIL 24. --REUTER

M-1

15.39 NORMAL DUTCH RAILWAY TRAFFIC RESUMPTION

AMSTERDAM, MAY 9.: NORMAL PASSENGER TRAFFIC ON ALL LINES OF THE NETHERLANDS RAILWAYS WILL BE RESUMED FROM SATURDAY NEXT.

M-1 --REUTER

SECRET

12.5.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS
America and West Indies

Curacoa. Small British force landed to safeguard oil refineries, French have landed small force at Aruba for similar purpose
(~~MID~~ DNI 2345/12)

Transport of troops to Jamaica. CNS Ottawa 1123/11. Considered essential that vessel locally available be used. LADY boats would appear suitable.
(D of ST 1917/12)

~~My 1350~~

~~Rec~~ . My 1350 11th May. If necessary I can spare a cruiser to escort troop transport from Halifax to Jamaica. In this case I suggest that only one Destroyer accompany transport and proceed to Bermuda on completion of escort.

(C in C AWI 0222/12 to CNS Ottawa)

SECRET

12.5.1940
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS ç
~~China.~~

Australia.

Your 1935/11 Commonwealth N.B. concurs.

(ACNB 1023Z/12. ~~HANtg.~~)

re CERES: COLOMBO remaining under orders of C. in C. China until position of Netherlands East Indies clarified.

09.36 "ALLIES ARE GOING TO LOSE" : NEW YORK PAPER'S VIEW

NEW YORK, MAY 6: "HITLER'S EMPIRE HAS NOW BEEN PERMITTED TO EXPAND ALMOST TO THE LIMITS ALLOWED BY THE EXISTENCE OF ITS OWN ALLIES", WRITES THE 'NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE'.

"THE ALLIES ARE NOW LEFT HOLDING TWO DEFENCE POSITIONS, ONE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, THE OTHER A FRONT OF 1,500 MILES MORE OR LESS, BY SEA AND LAND, RUNNING FROM NAMSOS UNDER THE ARCTIC CIRCLE TO THE SWISS ALPS.

"NOWHERE ALONG THIS VAST FRONTIER HAVE THE ALLIES SHOWN THE ABILITY TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE AND THEY CERTAINLY CANNOT DO SO FROM THE BALKANS....

"SUCH IS THE SITUATION WITH WHICH THE NORWEGIAN DEFEAT HAS CONFRONTED THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONS AND THE ONE COMFORT TO BE

18

15.42 KEEPING COTTON FROM NAZIS.- MAY 9.

SIR ANDREW DUNCAN, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, TODAY EXPRESSED THE GOVERNMENT'S INDEBTEDNESS TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND ACTIVE COOPERATION WHICH ON THE OUTBREAK OF WAR THEY AFFORDED THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC WARFARE VOLUNTARILY RESTRICTING EXPORTS OF COTTON TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES ADJACENT TO GERMANY.

SIR ANDREW, WHO WAS SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURAL LUNCH OF THE ANGLO EGYPTIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT THE SAVOY HOTEL, SAID THAT EVEN WITH THE GREATEST GOOD WILL ANOMALIES WERE BOUND TO ARISE BUT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECT TO REMOVE THEM.

NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN STARTED WITH IMPORTING COUNTRIES AND ARRANGEMENTS WERE VERY FAR ADVANCED FOR THE PLACING OF THEIR IMPORTS OF COTTON FROM ALL SOURCES ON AN EQUAL FOOTING.

"IT SHOULD SOON BE POSSIBLE TO SAY THAT THIS SEEMING GRIEVANCE OF GOVERNMENT" ENTERS AY REMOVE REUTER THE VIGOROUS ACTION TAKEN

SECRET

12-5-40

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

Sabotage Precautions.

My 1329/12.

Information ~~has been~~ received that in the event of war, Italian subjects have been instructed to commit acts of sabotage on an extensive scale.

British authorities at Abadan are aware of situation, but in view of importance of preventing blocking operations in the river and in the Rooka Channel by Italian ships, ~~it has been~~ decided that one sloop should for the present be stationed in the vicinity of Shatt-Al-Arab.

Italian Tankers PROMETEO and ANTONIA CAMPANILLE are due at Abadan 15/~~th May~~/5, but should not be interfered with nder present circumstances.

1831/12

~~for~~ D.O.D. (F)

"INEXPLICABLY WITHDRAWN". --REUTER.

S-1

09.25 NORWEGIAN INTERESTS IN GERMANY.

STOCKHOLM, MAY 4: ;-5 5£3 43QUEST OF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE CONSENT OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO WATCH NORWEGIAN INTERESTS IN GERMANY.

S-1 --REUTER.

FOREIGN STATIONS. 12.5.40
Sun

SECRET

East Indies.

US2 arrived Alex 05102 escorted by RAMILLIES, KENT, DECOY, DEFENDER, SUFFREN (NOIC Alex 05372/12) E Fleet to sail 09002/12 (FOC 4 CS 06302/12) arrived (NCSO Alex 02482/12) left 0950, escort LIVERPOOL (CS4 flag) RAMILLIES, DECOY, DEFENDER, SHOREHAM, SUFFREN (NOIC Alex 09512/12)

US3 and escort left Fremantle 12/5 (ACNB 09592/12)

~~ALEX~~
Patrol off Kismayu. CARTHAGE to proceed at best speed to patrol to intercept UCKERMARK and TANNENFELS see Admty. 1312/11 (CiC E11754 2/12)

RANCHI route KARANJA by route M3 and order her to proceed independently to Berbera. RANCHI then proceed best speed to patrol off Kismayu (CiC E1 18472/12)

09.34 NAZIS' COURT MARTIAL WARNING. MAY 6.

LOOTING IS TAKING PLACE IN SOME OF THE EVACUATED DISTRICTS IN GERMAN-OCCUPIED NORWAY, ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GERMAN-CONTROLLED OSLO RADIO THIS MORNING.

IT WAS STATED THAT A WARNING THAT 'LOOTERS CAUGHT RED-HANDED WOULD BE COURT MARTIALLED AND COULD EXPECT THE MOST SEVERE PUNISHMENT' HAD BEEN GIVEN BY THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES IN AN ORD R JUST ISSUED. THE ORDER, IT WAS ADDED, REPEATED THE DETERMINATION OF THE GERMANS "TO PROTECT" THE NORWEGIAN POPULATION. --REUTER

B-1

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS
Mediterranean.

12.5.1940
Sunday.

~~Air Principles evident from lessons of Norwegian Defence campaign in regard to forces intervening & force of hostile air attacks. (Adty Sl., 1356/12, to C-in-C Med)~~

Italian preparations

Any assembly of transports or storeships at Bari, Brindisi or Barletta and any information suggesting possible embarkation of troops at these ports should be reported at once (DNI 1153/12 to Consul Bari, Do (1) Malta)

Transfer 1 s/ms to Germany

asking for source of his 1517/11 and further information (DNI 1154/12 to NA Ankara)

16.29 "ITALY IS INVULNERABLE" : PAPER'S SEVEN REASONS

ROME, MAY 4.: "IS ITALY VULNERABLE IN CASE OF WAR ?" THE ROME PAPER 'TEVERE' ASKS TODAY AND REPLIES THAT SHE IS NOT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

"1. THE ADRIATIC IS A CLOSED SEA BECAUSE ITALY IS IN POSSESSION OF THE TWO SIDES OF THE STRAIT OF OTRANTO (BETWEEN ITALY AND ALBANIA), WHICH ENTIRELY DOMINATES THE ENTRANCE TO THIS SEA.

"2. ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE SUBMARINES CONSTITUTE AN INSURMOUNTABLE AND CONTINUOUS CHAIN FROM THE LIGUARIAN COAST (ON THE FRANCO-ITALIAN FRONTIER) TO THE STRAIT OF OTRANTO.

"3. THE TYRRHENIAN SEA (BETWEEN ITALY AND SARDINIA) IS A LAKE SURROUNDED WITH GREAT AIRPORTS AND CONTROLLED BY THE VERY POWERFUL ITALIAN AIR FORCE.

"4. AN IMPOSING FLEET CONSISTING IF SIX BIG BATTLESHIPS, THIRTY-THREE CRUISERS, ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN DESTROYERS AND SIXTY-TWO TORPEDO-BOATS IS OPERATING BETWEEN THE IONIAN

[illegible] TYRRHENIAN SEA THROUGH

~~HOME COMMANDS.~~
FOREIGN STATIONS
Mediterranean

12.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

Air. Summarising lessons of Norwegian campaign re. forces disembarking in face of hostile air attacks. (1st SL 1356/12 to C-in-C Med.)

~~GERMAN Aliens.~~ ~~Evacuated in pleasant state on the whole arrangements.~~

Oil fuel. Improbable that unless Germany can supply more tank cars the present average rate of despatch from Varna will increase. (2000 tons weekly) (4th Recond. Sofia No. 4 & SAVING rec. 12/5.)

Dodecanese. 2 Greek sources who left Dodecanese 26/4 state conditions were normal. No special warlike preparations or troop movements. B2 (SBNO Suez Canal area 1722/12)

Shipping Your 1747/7. Norwegian and Polish ships should be issued with envelope "Q.Q".

In spite of relaxation in diversion orders it is intended to continue the issue of this envelope for the present but so as to reduce the risk of compromise you should arrange as far as possible to have it withdrawn at Gibraltar and Port Said from ships leaving the Mediterranean.

Instructions concerning Dutch and Belgian ships will be signalled later.

1521/12. to C-in-C Med.)

~~for~~ Head of ~~Military Branch.~~
~~(Approved by A.C.N.S.)~~

11.37 LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE : MARKETS VERY QUIET. MAY 6

IN VIEW OF TOMORROW'S PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE, MARKETS ARE VERY IDLE, AND WITH A LITTLE ROUTINE SELLING IN PROGRESS, A SLIGHTLY LOWER TREND IS DISCERNIBLE.

GILT EDGED SHOW ONLY A FEW SLIGHT ALTERATIONS, BUT IN THE FOREIGN MARKET JAPANESE ISSUES HAVE BEEN MARKED DOWN AND BRAZILIANS ARE RATHER EASIER.

AMONG INDUSTRIALS ELECTRIC SUPPLY AND EQUIPMENT ISSUES RECORD

FOREIGN STATIONS
South Atlantic.

12.5.1940
Sunday.

SECRET

DUCHESSA D'AOSTA

Your 2147/10, 2252/10, 1355/11. Detained by Union Govt. on [illegible] of suspected case of small pox. Please report reason, as it is undesirable in present circumstances to give Italians cause for complaint (ACNS(A) 1550/12 to NOIC Simonstown)

Belgian and Dutch ships

joining convoy. Your 1105/11 ✱ reply yes. For ships between 9 and 15 knots (SO(I) Freetown 1131/12)

SECRET

FOREIGN STATIONS.
North Atlantic.

12 & 13.5.1940
~~Thursday~~.
Sunday

Reich positions. Convoys and patrols 1306/12 (DC 0048/12)

Italian Mail. Admlty 1026/11. Bag removed owing to unusual address to Genoa Post Office instead of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome. (CCSO, Sib. 1430/12)

NCS Fayal will cease to function after 15/5. Staff is being transferred to San Miguel (Ponta Delgada) (DT D 183-7/12)

REPETITIONS OF ABOVE MESSAGES FOLLOW....

10

13.07 BRITISH INTERESTS IN MEXICO.. MAY 4

REUTER LEARNS FROM AN AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE IN LONDON THAT THE NETHERLANDS LEGATION IS NOW WATCHING BRITISH INTERESTS IN MEXICO. RELATIONS BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND MEXICO WERE BROKEN OFF IN 1938 AND UNTIL RECENTLY BRITISH INTERESTS HAD BEEN WATCHED BY THE DANISH LEGATION. --REUTER

B-2

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS 12.5.40.

SECRET

Home Comds.

~~KELLY~~

KELLY MTB's were encountered lying almost stopped in track 15 ships being very difficult to pick up. Attack took place at 2235/A 116° from 57° N 4° E 46 miles. Enemy fired torpedo at 600 yards. Tracks and splash of discharge visible. They then retired under their own smoke. Some had small tripod masts. Boat which hit KELLY with torpedo afterwards rammed both KELLY and BULLDOG after former was in two and sank alongside. None sunk by gunfire (CS 18 1031/12)

AGRICULTURE FORECASTS THAT THE FARM INCOME FOR
HALF YEAR WILL BE HIGHER THAN FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF
1939.

MEANWHILE TRADERS ARE INCLINED TO HOLD OFF THE MARKET,
AT LEAST PENDING TOMORROWS' BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENTS.
S-1 --REUTER.

IN SECOND PARAGRAPH OF 19.10 MESSAGE - GERMANY AND SWEDEN -
READ IN SECOND PARAGRAPH: ..."THIS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS HAS
CONFIRMED THE COMPLETE AGREEMENT ETC..

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. 12/5.40
Home Commands. Sunday

SECRET

KELLY. (Cont'd) A/c reports following message from KELLY.
"In tow with tugs going well 0745." "Battle flight and Sunderland A/S escort in contact (C in C Rosyth 1002/12) Air escort report (Dornbristle, 2355/12)

SEAL. S/m. Official communique, overdue and presumed lost. Foreign reports suggest some of her crew may be prisoners of war. (Issued 1253/12)

SHANDWICK Trawler, has major engine defect. Intend taking trawler ELDORADO in place of SHANDWICK (SO, Fishing Flotilla,

~~VERSATILE~~ ~~Boarded by Dutch coast 0940 (VERSATILE, 0940,~~

~~(C in C Nore, 1057/12~~ 1641/12)

BLYSKAWICA Polish destroyer, urgent defects, class A. (GRAFTON, 1401/12) Request tug may assist to pass boom gate about 1830 today (GRAFTON, 1357/12)

1135 INTERESTS IN MEXICO. M MAY 4

REUTER LEARNS FROM AN AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE IN LONDON THAT THE NETHERLANDS LEGATION IS NOW WATCHING BRITISH INTERESTS IN MEXICO. RELATIONS BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND MEXICO IRE BROKEN OFF IN 1938 AND UNTIL RECENTLY BRITISH INTERESTS HAD BEEN WATCHED BY THE DANISH LEGATION. --REUTER

B-2

13.09 ITALIANS LEAVE YUGOSLAVIA.

ROME, MAY 4: TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY ITALIANS WHO ARE BEING REPATRIATED FROM YUGOSLAVIA ARRIVED AT TRIESTE TODAY.

THEY LEFT YUGOSLAVIA UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COMMISSION

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS 12.5.40
Sunday.

SECRET

Home Commands

VERSATILE requires docking after grounding. Now in tow to Sheerness. Request arrangements be made to dock in Thames as neither Chatham nor Sheerness can undertake the work (C in C Nore 1157/12) Grounded off Dutch coast 0940 (VERSATILE 0940, C in C Nore 1057/12) See also Operations.

WILD SWAN Developed severe vibration at 20 knots and above. Proceed to Dover at best speed (HYPERION 1545/12, Capt. (D) 1 1855/12) MALCOLM to proceed Hook at 0300 tomorrow Monday to take over duties of WILD SWAN. (Vice, Dover, 1958/12)

STRIKE. REUTER

M-2

15.47 ITALY TO PROTEST

ROME, MAR 2.: IT IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IS DRAWING UP A PROTEST AGAINST THE BRITISH DECISION TO STOP SEA-BORNE EXPORTS (PARTICULARLY COAL) FROM GERMANY TO ITALY AND THAT IT WILL BE PRESENTED TOMORROW. -3REUTER

M-2

HOME COMMANDS
C-in-C

12.5.40
Sunday

Miscellaneous.

Germans in Dutch fishing vessels — arriving at Aberdeen. Proposal to intern German members of crews (NOIC Aberdeen 0110/12)

WEATHER

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	W or NW. Light.	Fine to cloudy except for occasional showers in Shetland area.	Good
Horns Reef & Dutch Coast.	NW light to moderate	Fine to cloudy	Good
Channel	NE light to moderate	Little or no cloud	Good
W. Approaches	NE light to moderate	Little or no cloud	Good
Norwegian Coast	W or SW, light to moderate	Mainly cloudy with occasional showers.	Mainly good.

16.29 REUTERS DAILY INDEX OF FRENCH INDUSTRIALS

PARIS BOURSE CLOSING QUOTATIONS ON MAY 8.

BASIS : OCT 30, 1936 - 100

TODAY 172.8, PREVIOUS 174.7, WEEK AGO 158.7,

4 WEEKS AGO 151.4, YEAR AGO 121.4 --REUTER

B-2

HOME COMMANDS 12.5.40
Shipping Sunday

SECRET

NOTOS Norwegian, left Convoy 0731/4 0200/11 in 11°W, fine weather, circumstances suspicious (C-in-C WA 0101/12) Reported engine damage (Land's End Radio, 1524/12)

Convoys. Positions (OS, 1825/12) (C-in-C WA 1417/12)

Trawling. Area west of Morecambe L.V. available for trawling bounded by 53° 50' N., 54° 0' N., 3° 40' W. and 4° W. (OTA 1619/12)

12.56 DUTCH PRIME MINISTER'S BROADCAST SPEECH.

AMSTERDAM, MAY 4: DURING HIS BROADCAST TODAY THE DUTCH PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT DURING THE PAST TZIKMT TWENTY-ONE PEOPLE HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY WERE REGARDED AS DANGEROUS TO THE ORDER AND SAFETY OF THE COUNTRY.

A

NL "THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR IND VIDUAL REASONS AND .NOT FOR THEIR POLITICAL OPINIONS" THE PRIME MINISTER ADDE

B-2 SEE 2....

HOME COMMANDS 12.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

Mining

Mines off Helder — Floating mines were seen in approaches to Helder (GRIFFIN 2300/12)

Hook — Sweepers report that branch channel to Hook is now clear of magnetic mines one more exploded this afternoon (HYPERION 1755/12)

13.22 NORWEGIAN TROOPS BEING DISARMED.

BERLIN, MAY 4: GERMAN H.Q. AT OSLO CLAIM TODAY THAT NORWEGIAN TROOPS IN WESTERN NORWAY ARE BEING DISARMED DIS DISCHARGED.

ALL VESSELS IN THIS AREA ARE STATED TO BE COLLECTING AT CERTAIN POINTS ORDERED BY THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES.

THE NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES ARE SAID TO BE "COOPERATING LOYALLY." --REUTER

B-2

HOME COMMANDS 12.5140

SECRET

Mining

Do you think magnetic mines could be usefully used to stop Germans crossing Zuider Zee, if so in what position. They could be laid either by a/c's or preferably by MTB's. (VCNS 1814/12 & GRIFFIN)

12.11 ADD 09.26 - DUTCH PREMIER BROADCASTING TODAY.

AMSTERDAM, MAY 4: GREAT INTEREST IS ATTACHED TO THIS AFTERNOON'S RADIO SPEECH BY THE NETHERLANDS PRIME MINISTER, JONKHEER DE GEER WHO WILL BE MAKING AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT, REUTER LEARNS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT, IT IS UNDERSTOOD, WILL BE ABOUT

HOME COMMANDS.

12.5.40
Sun

~~A~~ Mining

SECRET

Mines off Rottaerl.

Have not been laid. Delete para. 2 ~~of~~ of 27 QZX (DMS 1538/12)

Mines in German harbours.

Were laid last night and will continue to be laid (~~VCAS~~ C.in C. Nore 1012/12, VCNS 1400/12)

19.42 BELGIAN MAIL-BOATS CANCELLED.

BRUSSELS, MAY 6: TODAY'S SAILING FOR FOLKESTONE IN BELGIUM'S OSTEND-FOLKESTONE MAIL-BOATE SERVICE AND TOMORROW'S SAILING FOR OSTEND HAVE BOTH BEEN CANCELLED, IT IS LEARNED HERE.

ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON SATURDAY, THE SERVICE WAS TO HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED FROM WEDNESDAY.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE BELGIAN MARINE AUTHORITIES ARE NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER TO ALLOW A RESUMPTION OF THE SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY. IT IS BELIEVED UNLIKELY THAT THE THRICE-WEEKLY SERVICE WILL BE RESUMED, BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF WEEKLY SAILINGS IS ENVISAGED. --REUTER.

S-1

HOME COMMANDS 12.5.40
Sunday

Missing

Operation FD12 — NARWHAL reports Operation FD12 completed (VAS 1014/12)

SECRET

Magnetic Mines, Dutch Coast. — Magnetic mines reported laid 240° distant 7 miles from Ymuiden. (HYPERION, 0548/12)

Request instructions whether sweepers should clear river to Rotterdam on completion of work here in view of somewhat obscure situation in Rotterdam. (HYPERION, 0945/12)

2 Aarons will scout from 1300 today at Smith's Knoll until 1600. "Help" warnings to be made on 280 kcs in addition code word "Parts". (C-in-C Nore, 1045/12 to D.20).

Q 4c Minesweeping. — Your 0945. Attempt should be made to clear River, but sweepers should retire if opposition met. Comdr. Peterson arrives Flushing today in charge of minesweeping in Holland. (C-in-C Nore, 1155/12½ to HYPERION)

Sweepers report that entrance channel to Hook is now clear of magnetic mines. One more exploded this afternoon. (HYPERION, 1755/12)

C-in-C Nore's 0651 to VIMY. One explosion possibly M mine immediately after dropping from aircraft ahead of CODRINGTON in North Channel on leaving Ymuiden (Capt (D) 1, 0720/12)

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MAWCHI MINES HELD TODAY, MR GEORGE P. JOSEPH INFORMED SHAREHOLDERS THAT DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW 160,860 TONS OF ORE WERE TREATED, AN INCREASE OF 17,948 TONS OVER 1938. THE AVERAGE GRADE OF MINE ORE TREATED WAS 2.64 PER CENT COMBINED TIN AND WOLFRAM AGAINST 2.37 PER CENT PREVIOUSLY.

RECENTLY THE MONTHLY TONNAGE OF ORE TREATED VARIED ONLY A VERY LITTLE AS THE MILL WAS NOW WORKING TO FULL CAPACITY.

TOTAL CONCENTRATES PRODUCED AMOUNTED TO 5,564 TONS COMPARED WITH 4,646 TONS AND THE METAL CONTENTS OF 3,962 TONS CONSTITUTED A RECORD.

B-2 SEE 2.....

13.31 TATE AND LYLE DIVIDEND MAY 9

INTERIM 3-1/2% LESS TAX (SAME) --REUTER

B-2

'''

HOME COMMANDS.
Air.

12.5.40

SECRET

Enemy air activity.

Narvik Area.

May 1141 enemy aircraft bombing continuously.
MARGOT or another ship will soon be hit unless fighters
are sent. (ENTERPRISE, 1145/12)

Owing to continuous bombing, unloading of MARGOT will be
long job if ship is not hit in meantime. Please send
fighters. FLEETWOOD running out of ammunition.
(ENTERPRISE, 1330/12)

16.26 SHIPPING DIVERSION WORKING SATISFACTORILY. MAY 9.

THE ARRANGEMENTS RECENTLY BROUGHT INTO FORCE FOR THE DIVERSION OF A CERTAIN PROPORTION OF BRITISH SHIPPING AWAY FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA ARE, REUTER LEARNS, FUNCTIONING VERY SATISFACTORILY.

NO ALTERATION OF MODIFICATION OF THE ORIGINAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE SCHEME. --REUTER.

S-1

16.28 "GERMANS ARE TRADING THEIR SOULS" -
M. KOHT IN PARIS.

PARIS, MAY 9: THE DETERMINATION OF THE NORWEGIAN PEOPLE TO FIGHT ON UNTIL THEIR COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE WAS RESTORED

HOME COMMANDS, 12-5-40

Air

Enemy Air Activity. SECRET Sunday

Flushing
~~KIMBERLEY~~ 1 a/c bombing = Flushing. (KIMBERLEY 1147/12)
20 bombs on Flushing. (KIMBERLEY, 1155/12)
12 a/c's bombing Flushing and Breskens (KIMBERLEY 2125/12)

MOHAWK Bombed 342 CPOX 17 (MOHAWK 1211/12)

FURY Bombed 360 DKDN 12 (FURY 1212/12)

VIVACIOUS Bombed 1523 CPOX (VIVACIOUS 1358/12)
8 a/c's CPOX 1925 (VIVACIOUS 1912/12)

Hook. Help, Hook, enemy bombing. (Dover, 2104/12)
S.N.O. Hook reports "Repeated bombing attacks, several wounded. Request help and instructions." (V.A. Dover 2110/12)

19.33 WALL STREET QUIETLY IRREGULAR.

NEW YORK, MAY 6: DEALINGS ARE LIGHT AND WHILE SOME IRREGULARITY IS PERSISTING, THE MAJORITY OF ISSUES RECORD GAINS EXTENDING UP TO ONE POINT.

BUSINESS NEWS IS FAIRLY CHEERFUL WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE POINTING OUT THAT THE DECLINE IN THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION DURING APRIL WAS THE SMALLEST SO FAR THIS YEAR.

STEEL ISSUES ARE ASSISTED BY THE STRENGTHENING TENDENCY OF STEEL SCRAP. AT THE SAME TIME THE PUBLICATION 'STEEL' SAYS THAT THE EXPORT MARKETS REMAIN ACTIVE.

AIRCRAFTS ARE SUSTAINED BY THE VERY FAVOURABLE FIRST-QUARTER RESULTS OF DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT. MOTORS AND RAILS ARE MOVING WITHIN NARROW LIMITS. COPPERS ARE CHEERED BY TALK OF IMPROVED FOREIGN DEMAND SHORTLY. THERE IS ALSO SUPPORT FRO CHEMICAL, PAPER AND SHIPPING ISSUES.

FARM IMPLEMENTS REMAIN STEADY. THE DEPARTMENT OF

HOME COMMANDS. 12.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

Air.

Enemy air activity.

CODRINGTON — Bombed (CPOX 0202 (CODRINGTON 0650/12)
Bombed CPOX 0509 (CODRINGTON 0852/12)
Bombed CPOX 0102 (CODRINGTON 1030/12)
Sent fighters CPOX 0102 (CODRINGTON 1100/12)

HAVOCK — Bombed ~~FH~~ CPOX 1015 (HAVOCK 0702/12)
Enemy still bombing (HAVOCK 0714/12)

SS SEMBILAN (Dutch) — Bombed 51°~~4~~20'N 4°5'E (SEMBILAN 0701/12) SOS 52°22' N 4°8'E (SEMBILAN 0766/12) Distress traffic ended. Distress call is clear (SEMBILAN 0743/12)

HEREWARD — Bombed CPTS 0044 (HEREWARD 1032/12)

PRINCESS JULIANA — 2905 tons, carrying troops from Flushing to Ymuiden. Heavily hit by bombs off Hook. Ship still afloat, being abandoned. Continuous a/c attack for past hour. (CODRINGTON, 1116/12). HAVOCK to salve confidential papers. (HYPERION, 1308/12) WILD SWAN and ~~Havock~~ Granby took survivors to Hook. Now lies on Hm. ships. (Capt(D) 1236/12)

See also U-Boat campaign.

Norwegian Campaign. — Principles written for Norwegian campaign in landing forces in face of hostile aircraft attacks. (1st Sea Lord & C in C Med, 1358/12)

OF THE DEMOCRATIC REGIME AS COMPARED WITH THE TOTALITARIAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS" IS HOW THE TURKISH NEWSPAPER "CUMHURIYET" COMMENTS TODAY ON THIS WEEK'S DEBATES IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS, SAYS A DISPATCH FROM ANKARA.

THE WHOLE OF BRITAIN, THE NEWSPAPER POINTS OUT, HAS THE RELENTLESS DETERMINATION TO PURSUE THE WAR TO A FINAL AND DECISIVE ALLIED VICTORY.

THE "IKDAM" ADMIRES THE POLITICAL MATURITY AND PLUCK OF THE BRITISH PEOPLES AND THEIR LEADERS.

"THE REVERSE IN NORWAY", IT ADDS, "IS ONLY A SLIGHT EPISODE, NOT AFFECTING THE ISSUE OF THE WAR, WHICH WILL BE WON ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

"ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS HAVING AN INCALCULABLY STIMULATING EFFECT IN CO-ORDINATING AND STRENGTHENING THE ALLIES' FIGHTING MACHINERY". --REUTER.

S-1

SECRET

12.5.1940
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Air.

British Air Activity.

Requesting air protection for British destroyers operating on Dutch coast from Dover & eastwards wherever German aircraft are landing. (DC., 0220/12 to Air Min)

Skua contact with one Dornier 215 at 1230/12 off Bergen. Report (Hatston, 1452/12)

Reconnaissance report, Flushing. (Chatham AC H.Q., 2120/12)

Ship escorted by 2 torpedo boats attacked 1158 in approx 60° 5'N, 5° 20' E. Six 500-lb bombs dropped, no hits. (Hatston, 1435/12)

20.39 TODAY'S SALES OF U.S. COMMODITIES MAY 7.

COCOA...78 LOTS SUGAR...103 LOTS RUBBER...183 LOTS

PEPPER...2 LOTS COFFEE: SANTOS...1,000 BAGS RIO...NIL.

M-2 --REUTER

20.40 5TH ADD 15.44 "ALL DUTCH ARMY LEAVE STOPPED"

A FURTHER ORDER ISSUED THIS EVENING RECALLS TWO CLASSES OF MARINES - THOSE OF 1927 AND 1928. THESE MEN ARE SPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH COAST-GUARD DUTIES. THEY HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO REPORT TO HEADQUARTERS AT ROTTERDAM.

ALL THE ORDERS WERE BROADCAST OVER THE DUTCH RADIO TONIGHT.

SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIRMEN ARE ALREADY HURRYING TO REJOIN THEIR UNITS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. CIVILIAN PASSENGERS ARE BEING ASKED TO LEAVE TRAINS TO MAKE ROOM FOR TH

M-2 --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS.

SECRET

12-5-40

Convoys - Norway

NS. 3. Sailed 0815 for Harstad, escorted by WALKER and BEAGLE. (FOIC, Greenock. 0901/12)

NS 2 NS 2. and METEA arrived 11/5. (NOIC Narvik 0937/12)

Loading & reloading of BATORY and SOBIETSKI. (D of SF to FO, Glasgow, 1125/12)

BELFORT French admty request to sail for Narvik with N.S.3. She is supply ship for French flying boats asked for by Gen. Bethouart. (DOD(H) 1135/12) Captain of BELFORT states endurance insufficient for route of N.S.3. (C-in-C HF, 2008/12)

N.P. 3 Request may be sailed for Narvik area when ready. (DOD(H) 1657/12)

~~NOTOS Norwegian ship~~

NS4 }
NP4 } Cancel Admty 2236/10. Future convoy sailings amended and as far as possible combined. Composition of NS4 and NP4 (D.O.D.(H) 1659/12)

IN 16.45 HOUSE OF COMMONS: PLEASE READ:

APPLICABLE TO OTHER OILSEEDS ALREADY GROWN. I UNDERSTAND FROM THE SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES THAT EXPERIMENTS IN

17.02 FREIGHT MARKET REPORT. MAY 9

QUITE A FAIR MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRY FOR NEUTRAL VESSELS WAS NOTED ON THE BALTIC EXCHANGE TODAY AND A NUMBER OF FIXTURES WAS REPORTED.

HEAVY GRAIN WAS BOOKED FROM THE PLATE TO THE WEST COAST U.K. AT THE RATHER EASIER RATE OF 122/6 PER TON, WHILE THE RATE FROM THE PLATE TO THE CONTINENT WAS VERY FIRM, WITH 26

HOME COMMANDS.

SECRET

12/5

Norwegian Units.

Requesting which units of Norwegian Army remain in Norwegian hands, and whether land or sea communications exist between Tromsö and Kirkenes. (D.N.I., 17/12/12.8 to D.D. Naval).

19.10 GERMANY AND SWEDEN.

BERLIN, MAY 6: THE OFFICIAL GERMAN NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCED TONIGHT THAT THE FUEHRER AND THE KING OF SWEDEN HAD HAD A WRITTEN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

THE AGENCY ADDED: "THIS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS HAS STRENGTHENED THE COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE POLICY OF BOTH COUNTRIES IN CONFORMITY WITH THE STATEMENTS ALREADY PUBLICLY MADE BY THE GERMAN AND SWEDISH GOVERNMENTS". --REUTER.

S-1

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Aircraft Carriers.

12.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

GLORIOUS
FURIOUS

Basil after party mentioned in
A/S 1346/11 have been embarked.
(Diplomatic &c.) (C in C HF 0807/12)

FURIOUS sailed (FOIC Greenock 1119/12)

GLORIOUS sailed (FOIC Greenock 1339/12)

Both ships ordered to return to Clyde. (VCNS 1415/12)

Returned Clyde (NOIC Greenock 1756/12)

Review of my 1415/12, passengers and officers mentioned
in GLORIOUS 1137/12 are to be transferred to
SOBIESKY or BATORY. (DSD (H) 1927/12)

Requesting information of position of Barden Tors
landing ground. (GLORIOUS, 1450/12)

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Submarines

12.5.40

~~MESSAGE.~~

1.

SECRET.

From. R.A.(D) Home Fleet.

Date.12.5.40.

Recd. 1321.

~~Administrative Code (E) by T/P.~~

Addressed. F.O.C. 18th C.S. Capt. (D) 4. H.M.S. GLASGO
H.M.S. CALCUTTA. H.M.S. YORK. H.M.S. ASHANTI

Cancel my 1254 17th April.

(RA(D) H.F. 1316/12.)

Re: British Submarine operating North of Bergen.

~~Advance Copy sent to Ops. U.W.R. O.I.C.,~~

TT6.06 U.S. RUBBER DIVIDEND.

NEW YORK, MAY 9: THE U.S. RUBBER COMPANY ANNOUNCES THE REGULAR QUARTERLY DISBURSEMENT OF TWO DOLLARS ON THE PREFERRED.

THE DECLARATION IS ABOUT A MONTH EARLIER THAN IS USUAL AND THIS IS VIEWED BY FINANCIAL CIRCLES AS AN EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE THAT NO POLITICAL DISTURBANCES ARE IMPENDING IN THE EAST INDIES OR MALAYSIA, WHERE THE COMPANY HAS 22,000,000 DOLLARS INVESTED. --REUTER.

S-1

16.07 U.S. COPPER SALES

NEW YORK, MAY 9: SALES OF COPPER ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN MADE YESTERDAY AT 11.05 CENTS PER POUND, WITH FURTHER SUPPLIES STILL AVAILABLE AT THIS FIGURE. THE PREVIOUS CUSTOMS

HOME COMMANDS
Operations.

12-5-40
Secret

SECRET

Iceland - Operation Fork

Situation — Still quiet. Estimate 90% population favourable or neutral, 10% impassively hostile. Further details (Reykjavik, 1327/12)

Hvalfjord. — Admy 1851/11. Walrus disembarked and moored Fossvogr Fiord. Sub-Lieut (A) Broadwood in charge. (BERWICK, 1249/12)

British Subjects. — Admy 1959/10, number of British subjects in Iceland. 12 men, 6 women, 3 children. (SOI, Iceland, 1726/12)

Trawler Visits — Admy 1914/7. Iceland. Reykjavik area, now occupied by British. Trawlers should visit all eastern fiords between Papey and Langanes. Ascertain no enemy force present and be friendly with inhabitants. (VANP, 1510/12)

F.O.C.Northern Patrol's 1510. Act accordingly when visibility permits. H.M.S.NORTHERN DUKE all Fiords from Papey to Reydar inclusive. H.M.S.KINGSTON JACINTH between Horn and Borgar latitude 065° 32' North longitude 013° 47' West, H.M.S.KINGSTON PERIDOT engage Langanes.

(CALIFORNIA 1745/12)

13.09 ITALIANS LEAVE YUGOSLAVIA.

ROME, MAY 4: TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY ITALIANS WHO ARE BEING REPATRIATED FROM YUGOSLAVIA ARRIVED AT TRIESTE TODAY.

THEY LEFT YUGOSLAVIA UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE RETURN OF ITALIANS LIVING ABROAD. --REUTER

B-2

13.10 REYNAUD SEES BRITISH AMBASSADOR

PARIS, MAY 4: M. PAUL REYNAUD, FRENCH PRIME MINISTER, THIS MORNING RECEIVED SIR RONALD CAMPBELL, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR.

B-2 REUTER

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

12.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

Afforida
Mosjoen – Bodo – Mo.

4 mr 0107/12. Regard it as most important to check German advance into district which will give access to aerodromes. ENTERPRISE in charge of operations hastens to get in touch with Gubbins whose position from a garbled message seemed somewhat precarious. If Mo is not practicable force will go to Bodo. (Fo Narvik 1026/12 to 1st SL)

~~215~~ Should situation permit H.M.S.HESPERUS with MARGOT is to proceed to Scapa passing through position 066° N. 004° E. then as ordered by C.in C.Rosyth. H.M.S. FLEETWOOD to return to Lavang and complete with ammunition. H.M.S.ENTERPRISE go to Bodo. H.M.S.CAIRO remain at Mo. R.A.Narvik inform F H Q.

(Fo Narvik 2119/12)

13.05 THE PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION.

ACCORDING TO REUTER'S LOBBY CORRESPONDENT THE ONLY THINGS CLEAR AT THE MOMENT ARE:

1. THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESENT INTENTION TO RETAIN OFFICE.

2. THAT THE LABOUR OPPOSITION HAVE ACCEPTED AN ADJOURNMENT FOR TEN DAYS.

THEY HAVE A PARTY CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK.

SUCH AN ADJOURNMENT OFFERS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH A VIEW TO CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL.

3. NEITHER THE LABOUR OPPOSITION NOR MR LLOYD GEORGE WOULD ACCEPT OFFICE UNDER MR CHAMBERLAIN.

4. THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS INVITED A DEPUTATION OF THE INFLUENTIAL BACK BENCHERS COMMITTEE TO SEE HIM THIS AFTERNOON. --REUTER

B-2

12

HOME COMMANDS
Operations.

SECRET

12-5-40
Sum.

Mosjoen, Mo, Bodo.

Bodo Party. Embarked Col. Gubbins and 100 men. Further 350 in Norwegian steamer convoyed by JAVELIN. Both proceeding Bodo. (YORK 0444/12)

Company with Col. Gubbins is still reported aboard Sannesjoen. Investigate. (FO. Narvik to ENTERPRISE, 0532/12) Gubbins reported en route Bodo. (FO. Narvik, to ENTERPRISE, 1043/12)

Col. Gubbins and Governor from JACKAL landed Bodo 1000/12. Remainder arrived Bodo 1145. Nothing further required. Have supplied quantity of provisions and ammunition. JACKAL and JAVELIN proceeding. (JACKAL 1206/12)

Mo. Mo in Norwegian hands with local British Hqr. Another small British force is in contact with 1,000 enemy in Norwegian uniforms. Peninsula of Hemnes with HQ at Sund. ~~(remainder corrupt)~~ (JACKAL 0239/12)

Motor Drifters. In view of Rs. Scapa's adverse report on endurance and seaworthiness of the motor drifters, these craft will not now be included in Gubbins Flotilla. 5 trawlers will be sailed to Bodo when ready. (D of P 1425/12)

Before guns. Your 2246/11, No. In view of situation at Mosjoen these were left in accordance with Col. Gubbins' instructions (VETERAN 0139/12 to C in C HF)

16.50 WALL STREET FIRMER.

NEW YORK, MAY 9: THE MARKET EDGED FORWARD, ALTHOUGH MOVEMENTS WERE GENERALLY OF A FRACTIONAL NATURE, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF AIRCRAFT AND STEEL ISSUES. THE VANADIUM CORPORATION OF AMERICA IS TWO POINTS HIGHER, WHILE CURTIS WRIGHT IS THE FEATURE AMONG THE AVIATION ISSUES.

THE MARKET HAS SINCE QUIETENED DOWN, AND IS NOW FLUCTUATING SOMEWHAT UNCERTAINLY AROUND THE DAY'S BEST LEVELS.

B-2 --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS
Operations.

SECRET

125-40
Sun

Narvik.

General Mission. To visit Lord Cork and French Norwegian H.Q. from General Gamelin. (D of P 1752/12)

Kirkenes. Situation normal. Morale appears good. (C.S. 1, 827/12, & D.D. Narvik)

C.S. 20 Ordered to proceed Skjel Fiord and protect French S/m L'ESPOIR from attack. When relieved by VINDICTIVE, proceed Lavang Fiord. (D.D. Narvik 2126/12)

Supplies Your 1508/11 consider time has now arrived when Admiralty should take over responsibility for all supplies for ships in Narvik area. Propose necessary oilers, colliers, ammunition carriers and Naval and victualling store ships be assembled at Rosyth or Clyde for inclusion in suitable Narvik convoys (C in C HF 1010/12)

Transfer to [illegible]

17.47 HOUSE OF COMMONS - DANISH SHIPPING IN GERMANY.

MAY 7: IN REPLY AS TO WHAT STEPS HE WAS TAKING TO ENSURE THAT FREIGHT MONEY PAID TO DANISH OWNERS OF SHIPPING NOW IN ALLIED HANDS WOULD NOT BENEFIT GERMANY, MR CROSS SAID THAT COMPENSATION PAID FOR THE USE OF THE SHIPS WOULD BE SO ARRANGED AS NOT TO INVOLVE ANY BENEFIT TO GERMANY.

MR BELLENGER: "ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND THAT PAYMENT FOR THESE SERVICES WILL NOT BE REMITTED TO DENMARK".

MR CROSS: "YES, CERTAINLY". --REUTER.

S-1

17.48 HOUSE OF COMMONS - U.S. MONETARY POLICY... MAY 7.

HOME COMMANDS
Operations

SECRET

12.5.40

Harwich

COVENTRY — Joining me in Ofot Fiord. (FO. Narvik, 0925/12)

~~Supplies — Admty. 1308/11. Consider time has now arrived when Admty should take over responsibility for all supplies for Ntgn. ship in Narvik area (C-in-C HF, 1010/12)~~

Aerodromes, Banak. — Msg 0119/11 and FO. Narvik 0015/12. Banak aerodrome is not suitably placed for use at present. OC RAF, now arrived, states neither Lavan Foss nor Skaanland can be ready to receive aircraft before 22/5. (RA. Narvik, 1121/12)

Your 2345/11 and 2329/11. We consider it most undesirable to land fighter squadrons at Banak aerodrome, which is well within range of enemy bombers working from Trondheim. (Reasons). Consider you should retain both fighter squadrons in the Corinars until either Bardufoss or Skaanland is ready to receive them. (OOD(11) 1309/12, to FO Narvik)

M.L.C.'s Horse-boats. — Admty 2110/7 and 2123/9. Owing to changed situation 3 M.L.C.'s cannot now be sent. Request immediate reply in regard to requirements of horse boats. (SOLD to RA, Narvik, 1602/12)

Concurring in this (FO, Narvik, 1665/12)

10 horse boats required (FO. Narvik, 1857/12)

[illegible] WILL BE EFFECTED ON THE BASIS OF PRICES

RULING IN N.E.I. --REUTER.

S-1

16.43 FREIGHT MARKET REPORT. MAY 8.

THE BALTIC EXCHANGE FREIGHT MARKET WAS VERY QUIET TODAY, DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR OWNERS' DISINCLINATION TO DO ANY FRESH BUSINESS PENDING POSSIBLE FUTURE EVENTS.

TWO FIXTURES OF AMERICAN COALS FROM HAMPTON ROADS TO G BO WERE REPORTED, ONE AT 13.50 AND THE OTHER AT 13 DOLLARS A TON. --REUTER.

HOME COMMANDS 12.5.40
~~Auxiliaries~~ Sun.

Dutch Warships

SECRET

Cruiser SUMATRA class 10 miles N of Cromer steering W (Capt D 20 1130/12)

ISAAC STEERS	Destroyer	left Downs for Spithead (VA Dover 0852/12)
DAN GELDER	Minesweeper	
HEEMSKERCK	Cruiser	
018, 021, 022	s/m's	

SUMATRA (Cruiser) sailed and will arrive off Humber soon after 1200/12 (NOIC Yarmouth 0700/12)

SEA (BETWEEN ITALY AND GREECE) AND THE TYRRHENIAN SEA THROUGH THE STRAITS OF MESSINA.

"5. ENEMY FORCES ARE SEPARATED INTO TWO PARTS BY THE BARRIER OF THE ISLAND OF PANTELLERIA (THE STRONGLY FORTIFIED ITALIAN BASE SITUATED BETWEEN SICILY AND NORTH AFRICA TO THE NORTH-WEST OF MALTA).

"6. A VERY POWERFUL DEFENCE PROTECTS THE ITALIAN COASTLINE.

"7. EIGHT MILLION BAYONETS ARE READY FOR ANYTHING ON ITALIAN SOIL." --REUTER

M-2

16.36 ADD 16512 "MAIL BOAT SERVICE TO BE DISCONTINUED"

THE EXPLANATION IS THAT IN EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES THE MARINE ADMINISTRATION FEELS COMPELLED TO TAKE THIS STEP.

THE LAST OUTWARD BOUND BOAT WILL LEAVE ON MONDAY AND THE LAST

HOME COMMANDS
Operation J (contd.)

12.5.40
Sun

SECRET

Operation J consists of embarking passengers.
Hyperion tonight HYPERION and are other
are due off Vlissingen by 2040 BST. One destroyer
to embark Royal party, others to take refugees
which SS COTTRILL cannot take. Third
destroyer if available will be required if
bullion ship probably SS PERSEUS also
sails. This destroyer is not to enter Vlissingen.
Destination for Royal party Harwich, others
Southend (CinC Nore 1300/12)

(NA. Hague reports)

Your 1836/11. Apparently you did not receive
message from me through Netherlands Authy.
that Operation J was postponed. It is certain
that departure takes place after dark
tomorrow 12/5. 2155/11 Ends. (DOD(H) 1710/12
to CinC Nore)

My 1320 proceed to carry out Operation J
tonight. Send as escort for Royal party 2
more destroyers that need rest or fuel. Select
one to take charge on coast when you leave
(CinC Nore 1502/12 to D1, HYPERION)

Your 1320 and 1502. CODRINGTON detailed
for Royal party with WILD SWAN, VENETIA
as escort. HYPERION will take over flag
refugees from COTTRILL. VIMY detailed for
bullion ship if she sails. HEREWARD will
be left in charge on coast (Capt D1 1644/12)

18

A.Q. FIVE.

T16.43 TENDERS FOR N.E.I. TEA. MAY 8.

IT IS LEARNED IN MINCING LANE TEA CIRCLES THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOOD IS INVITING TENDERS THROUGH NETHERLANDS TEA COMPANIES REGISTERED IN ENGLAND, FOR 5,000,000 LBS OF N.E.I. TEAS, MADE UP OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS, FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT.

PAYMENT WILL BE EFFECTED ON THE BASIS OF PRICES

HOME COMMANDS 12.5.40
~~Operations~~ Dutch Coast Sunday
Operation J (Evacuation of Royal Family)
Arrangements for (Naval Secretary 0950/12, 1858/12)

SECRET

Operation J will probably take place tonight
Embarkation at 2200 (NA Hague 1159/12 BST)

For 2 nights have sent strong force to Ijmuiden at considerable risk to embark Royal party. Destroyers need rest. Am extremely reluctant to send ships again unless it is certain passengers intend to embark. (C-in-C Nore, 1458/12).

Your T.O. 58 May 12. Position fully appreciated but postponement has been due to internal dangers. In all these operations owing to constantly fluctuating situations some alteration to plans will be inevitable although every effort will be made to keep them as far as possible. (NA Hague, 1830/12) Passed to C-in-C Nore by D.C., 2117/12. May 1320. Carry out operation J tonight. (C-in-C Nore 1715/12 to Capt (D) 1).

Not possible to have ships standing by for Operation J every night. This should be explained and party should embark tonight Sunday without fail. (O.D.(H) to N.A. Hague, 1353/12)

HYPERION to send urgent message to this effect on arrival, (C-in-C Nore, 1725/12)

13.20 "FALL OF NARVIK ONLY A QUESTION OF DAYS".

STOCKHOLM, MAY 8: THE SUGGESTION THAT IT IS ONLY A QUESTION OF DAYS AND GOOD WEATHER BEFORE NARVIK AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY FALL TO THE ALLIES AND NORWEGIANS IS MADE BY SWEDISH NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS TODAY.

THE GERMANS, IT IS STATED, ARE SHORT OF PROVISIONS AND THE AMOUNT OF FOOD THAT CAN REACH THEM BY AIR CAN SCARCELY BE ADEQUATE.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT GERMAN TROOPS FROM THE TRONDHEIM AREA CANNOT MAKE THEIR WAY UP TO NARVIK BECAUSE THE COUNTRY IN THE NORTH IS PRACTICALLY WITHOUT ROADS.

MOREOVER THE ROUTES FROM THE SOUTH ARE SAID TO BE STRONGLY HELD BY NORWEGIANS, WHO DECLARE THAT UP TILL NOW NO GERMANS HAVE APPEARED TO THREATEN THEIR POSITIONS.

THE COUNTRY TO THE SOUTH OF NARVIK, IT IS STATED, IS SO DIFFICULT THAT NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE BY THE ALLIES AND NORWEGIANS TO INVEST THE GERMAN POSITIONS FROM THAT SIDE.

OTHER DETACHMENTS OF NORWEGIANS ARE STATED TO BE HOLDING

SECRET

12.5.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
~~Dutch Coast.~~ Low Countries

Refugees. Dutch officer has boarded WHITLEY inside harbour and states no refugees or royal personages to embark. S.s. PERSEUS not sailing tonight. 8 magnetic mines have been laid 240 degs. 7 miles from harbour entrance. Am returning to Sheerness with VIVIEN and WHITLEY. CODRINGTON and GRIFFIN returning to Hook. (F.O.2 C.S. 0131/12)

requesting destroyer be sent to embark 250 people in DOTTEREL. (N.A. Hague, 1630/12)
Cancel my 1630/12, but escort essential for DOTTEREL (N.A. Hague, 1805/12)

Your 1644, ships detailed for refugees, etc.
WILD SWAN to remain under orders of V.A. Dover.
Use another destroyer. COTTRILL not available, extra destroyer required instead.
(C-in-C Nore 1824/12)

PRICE WAS 11.12 CENTS.

PRODUCERS ARE HOLDING TO 11.50 CENTS PER POUND.

S-1 --REUTER.

16.08 MME TABOUIS SEES RUSSO-GERMAN ANTAGONISM. MAY 9.

MADAME TABOUIS TOLD A LITERARY LUNCHEON AT THE GROSVENOR HOUSE TODAY:

"IN PARIS ONE SEES THE BEGINNING OF GERMAN-RUSSIAN ANTAGONISM, MANY OF THE SYMPTOMS THAT THE SUCCESSES OF THEIR CONQUESTS ARE AT AN END, AND THAT HITLER WILL HAVE TO GIVE HIMSELF UP.

"OUR WAY WILL BE STREWN WITH DIFFICULTIES AND HARD EXPERIENCE, BUT OUR DETERMINATION AND ENERGY WILL NOT BE WEAKENED. WE KNOW WE ARE GOING TO WRITE PAGES OF FUTURE HISTORY WHICH WILL BE GRAND TO READ". --REUTER.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Dutch Coast

12/5.

SECRET

Destroyers (continued)

VERSATILE grounded. Taken in tow by WALPOLE. Proceeding Sheerness. (VERSATILE 0940/12) Your 0940. Tug proceeding from Sheerness to take over tow. Route. (C in C Nore 1057/12)

In event of damage to destroyers off Dutch coast intend to send rescue tugs to them. Most undesirable that other destroyers should be used for towing. (C in C Nore 1031/12)

Keep well clear of Capt (D) 1, who leaves Ymuiden for Harwich about 2300 tonight Sunday. (C in C Nore & WALPOLE, 2217/12)

CODRINGTON with VENETIA and VIVACIOUS and passengers left Ymuiden 2340/12, expected arrive Harwich 0700/13. (Capt (D) 1, 2358/12)

Bombardment of aerodrome asked for

~~900~~ Following from Naval Attache Hague begins. Germans have occupied car park and stadium South of Rotterdam and using as an aerodrome. Marine staff request British Destroyers bombard from waterway 1926. Ends.

Deal with this situation.

(C in C Nore 1953/12. to HEREWARD)

ATB.27 RUMOURS OF THE NIGHT UNSUBSTANTIATED.

GERMAN PROPAGANDA, SAYS PARIS.

PARIS, MAY 8: FALSE RUMOURS WHICH WERE RIFE DURING THE NIGHT AS TO ACTION IN HOLLAND HAVE SOMEWHAT ABATED TODAY.

IT WOULD SEEM THAT LAST NIGHT'S ALARMS PROBABLY FORMED PART OF THE GERMAN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS BEEN SO NOTICEABLE DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS, AND WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING IN VARIOUS DIRECTIONS. --REUTER.

S-2

HOME COMMANDS. 12.5.40
Operations Sunday
Dutch Coast - Waalhaven

SECRET

Waalhaven aerodrome

WILD SWAN proceed up river and bombard Waalhaven aerodrome if Dutch concur. LL sweepers sweep ahead if you if available (Cin C Nore 1154/12)

~~For information.~~ { N.A., Hague, has requested through Dutch N.L.O. that Waalhaven Aerodrome should be constantly bombarded in view of Rotterdam's position, which Dutch troops can no longer reinforce. Germans landing every hour with 15 planes accompanied by 8 fighters.

2 N.A. Hague, has also requested that Stavoren should be bombarded where large preparations are being made for crossing Zuyder Zee in boats.

(D.D.I.C., 1149/12, to Cin C. Nore)

Your 1154. Dutch authorities do not concur. This operation is not being carried out. (HYPERION, 1335/12 & Cin C Nore)

Bombing attack on Waalhaven 2140-2200/12, report. (Chatham ACHQ, 0125/13 & 0130/13)

REPETITION LAST PORTION OF ABOVE

"IT SHOULD SOON BE POSSIBLE TO SAY THAT THIS SEEMING GRIEVANCE HAS BEE ENTIRELY REMOVED TO THE VIGOROUS ACTION TAKEN BY H.M. GOVERNMENT", HE SAID. --REUTER

B-2

H.M.E. COMMANDS

Operations

12.5.1940

Sunday.

SECRET

Dutch Coast - Rotterdam.

Following received from Netherlands Government situation Rotterdam extremely critical. If landing of German troops at Waalhaven is not stopped immediately and continually. Rotterdam will be untenable and general consequence disastrous Allied bombers and fighters therefore considered vital Germans have landed artillery at Rotterdam from Swedish ships

(Naval, Hague)

No. T.O.O, recd. 1538/12

OUT IN THE HILLS AROUND THE GAU VALLEY AND THERE ARE REPORTS OF ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN THEM AND GERMAN TROOPS, IN WHICH HEAVY LOSSES ARE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN INFLICTED ON THE LATTER.

TH 'GERMANS ARE SAID TO BE METHODICALLY CLEARING UP SOUTH AND CENTRAL NORWAY, ALTHOUGH GUERILLA WARFARE IS STATED TO BE GOING ON IN THE OESTER VALLEY.

A REPORT IS CURRENT HERE THAT THE GERMAN SECOND-IN"COMMAND IN NARVIK HAS BEEN SHOT BY A NORWEGIAN IN ONE OF NARVIK'S RESTAURANTS AND THAT HIS ASSAILANT ESCAPED TO THE BRITISH LINES IN THE CONFUSION THAT FOLLOWED THE SHOOTING. --REUTER.

12

HOME COMMANDS. 12.5.40
Operations Sunday.
Dutch coast.

SECRET

As German planes land troops on foreshore from Scheveningen northwards at about low water this would be a good time for our ships to strand (NA Hague 1404/12 to Admy).

Repeated to MOHAWK, who was ordered to take JANUS under his orders and operate on coast as necessary. Next low water at Scheveningen 0120/13.

(C-C Nore 2214/12)

OILS WERE LIFELESS AND MOVEMENTS IN HOME RAILS WERE NOT OF ANY GREAT CONSEQUENCE. --REUTER

M-1

15.35 ECONOMISING IN SKILLED MUNITION WORKERS MAY 9.

A HINT THAT IT MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY UNDER PRESSURE OF WAR NEEDS TO CALL ON "RESERVOIRS OF UNSKILLED LABOUT HITHERTO UNTAPPED" FOR WORK IN ARMS FACTORIES WAS GIVEN BY MR BURGIN AT CARDIFF TODAY.

URGING THE NECESSITY OF MAKING THE FULLEST POSSIBLE USE BOTH OF MACHINE TOOLS AND SKILLED MEN IN THE MUNITIONS INDUSTRIES HE DECLARED: "UPON THE RAPID EXPANSION OF THE MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY MUCH OF THE SUCCESS OF OUR ARMAMENTS EFFORT IS NECESSARILY DEPENDENT. THE INDUSTRY IS MAKING GREAT

SECRET

12.5.40
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

~~Dutch Coast.~~ Dutch Coast

Operation Lyster

Keep steam at four hours' notice, coming to immediate notice by 0800 to-morrow Monday.
(Capt. Dangerfield, to H.M.S. FLORENTINO, TRANSEAS, PACIFICO, BORODINO, ATLANTIC GUIDE, 1146/12)

13.30 CALIFORNIA FAVOURS ROOSEVELT THIRD TERM.

SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 8: PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S THIRD TERM SUPPORTERS HEADED BY GOVERNOR CULBERT OLSEN OF CALIFORNIA HAVE SCORED A VICTORY OF SURPRISING PROPORTIONS - A THREE TO ONE MAJORITY -. OVER THE COMBINED VOTE FOR THE OTHER THREE DEMOCRATIC "SLATES" IN THE CALIFORNIA PRIMARY ELECTION, FOR NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES.

RETURNS FROM 11,380 OUT OF 13,511 PRECINCTS GAVE ROOSEVELT-PLEDGED DELEGATES 497,810 VOTES, AGAINST 80,193 FOR THE "SLATE" PLEDGED TO VICE-PRESIDENT GARNER, 56,647 TO THE SO-CALLED "HAM AND EGGS" PENSION TICKET HEADED BY MR WILLIS ALLEN, AND 33,952 TO THE LIBERAL LEFT GROUP HEADED BY LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ELLIS PATTERSON. --REUTER.

S-1

HOME COMMANDS 12.5.40
~~Operation XD~~ Sunday
Dutch Coast.
Operation XD

SECRET

~~Your~~

Situation at Flushing now considered sufficiently stabilised by presence of French Army to warrant withdrawal of XD Party. Admiral Ford agrees. Situation at Antwerp should permit similar withdrawal shortly. (VA, Dover, 1053/12).

Your 1053/12. Approve to withdraw destroyer from Flushing. Demolition party is to remain for present (VCNS 1345/12 to VA Dover)

Request O.C. Demolition Party to signal his appreciation of situation in Antwerp as regards necessity for retention of BRILLIANT and/or his party there. (NOIC Dover, 1319/12)

MR ANDREW DUNCAN SAID THAT THE POSITION AT PRESENT EXISTING IN WHICH IMMENSE QUANTITIES OF COMMODITIES WERE TEMPORARILY OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT WAS SO WIDELY DIFFERENT FROM THAT NORMALLY PREVAILING IN PEACE TIME THAT IT WAS CONSIDERED DESIRABLE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO PLACE INSURANCE OF THESE WARTIME COMMODITIES IN THE ORDINARY INSURANCE MARKET.

SIR ANDREW DUNCAN DISSENTED FROM THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY SIR RICHARD ACLAND THAT THE GREATER THE HOLDING OF STOCKS AND THE MORE SCATTERED THEY WERE, THE LESS NECESSARY IT WAS TO PAY INSURANCE COMPANIES.

MR ACLAND: "IS NOT THAT PRECISELY WHAT IT IS - AN EFFORT TO BOLSTER UP INSURANCE COMPANIES WITH PUBLIC MONEY?".

SIR ANDREW DUNCAN: "NO. THERE IS NO EFFORT TO BOLSTER UP INSURANCE COMPANIES.

"THERE IS AN EFFORT TO MAKE FOR THE STABILITY OF THE INSURANCE STRUCTURE, OWING TO THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF OUR INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE MARKET. (GOVT CHEERS).

MR ACLAND GAVE NOTICE THAT HE WOULD RAISE THE MATTER ON

SECRET

12.5.1940
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Dutch Coast, Hook.

Destroyers, Hook. Take charge of all destroyers in vicinity of Hook.(C.in C., Nore, to D.1, 0421/12)

Other source of information slow and unreliable. Essential you report exactly where ships are ndeeded and when you have to withdraw. (C.in C., Nore, to Capt. D.1, etc., 0453/12)

Try to establish communication between ships and shore, preferably at Scheveningen, alternatively Hook, to keep us informed of requirements and supply intelligence. (Capt. D.1, to HYPERION, 0836/12)
(see also Mining).

Situation 0600. No bombing seen on foreshore since 1900/11. Town behind Scheveningen afforesth Delft burning fiercely throughout the night. (Capt D-1, 0616/12)

by 0616. Destroyer attacked by bombing aircraft at 0700 but presence of Blenheims seems to have kept down bombing. Request relief aircraft if possible. HAVOCK, GRIFFIN and probably HYPERION will have to leave area p.m. today & prel. at present have adequate forces. (Capt D-1, 0809/12)

Admty 2341/11, transport for 1 battalion marines. Authorities here unable to collect any transport at present. (HYPERION, 1530/12)

OUR FORCES AS MIGHT SUIT THE PURPOSES OF THE ENEMY.

"LET US BEWARE ALSO OF BICKERINGS AND DIVISIONS AMONGST OURSELVES (CHEERS AND COUNTER CHEERS).

"WE MAY BE FACED WITH WAR IN THE MOST VIOLENT FORM DIRECTED AGAINST THIS COUNTRY IN THE HOPE OF BREAKING ITS COURAGE AND WILL POWER.

"THIS IS NO TIME FOR QUARRELS AMONGST OURSELVES BUT RATHER A TIME FOR CLOSING OUR RANKS, SETTING OUR TEETH AND ALL OF US ENDEAVOURING TO PUT EVERY OUNCE OF STRENGTH AND SKILL INTO FORCES FORGING WEAPONS WHICH WILL HELP US TO WIN.

SEND YOUR GOOD WISHES BY GREETINGS TELEGRAM.

-- NO CABINET DIVISION --

HIS DEBATE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE WAR CABINET ARE TO SPEAK AND THEY WILL BE FORTUNATE AND SKILFUL IF THEY GIVE NOTHING AWAY TO HELP THE ENEMY.

"ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO SEPARATE CABINET MINISTERS FROM ONE ANOTHER. SUCH SUGGESTIONS ARE AS UNWORTHY AS THEY ARE UNFAIR (CHEERS). THERE IS NO DIVISION AMONG US.

"NO ONE HAS ATTEMPTED TO INTRIGUE AGA NST ANOTHER. ALL HAVE ONLY ONE THOUGHT AND THAT IS HOW TO WIN THE WAR."

REFERRING TO THE SUGGESTION FOR A DIFFERENT FORM OF CABINET

(12)

Below Gangway (Work, 2245/12

HOME COMMANDS.

SECRET

12.5.1940.

Operations

Hook – Operation HARPOON.

My 2121/11 and 2341/11. CANTERBURY and MAID OF ORLEANS ~~are~~ to embark one composite Guards Battalion of about 650 men nd about 100 tons of stores and ~~are to be~~ sailed to the Hook f Holland. ~~It is~~ Hoped that they will be ready to sail by 930.

20,000 rounds of R.A.F. ammunition, about 5 tons weight, ow at Dover and consigned to the Commandant Maritieme, iddelen, Amsterdam, are also to be embarked and turned over to .C., R.M. Force.

Dutch authorities have been informed and are making rrangements to transport it to Amsterdam.

Ships are to return to Dover on completion of unloading.

A second Battalion may be sent to Hook during the night 3th/14th May. It is probable that the R.M. Detachment will e withdrawn in the ship carrying this Force.

This Operation will be known as HARPOON.

(V.C.N.S., 1656/12.)

Ships sailed. Expected time of arrival 0300/13. (To Dover, 2010/12) Request fighter protection at Hook during disembarkation Harpoon (V.A. Dover, 1945/12) Heavy air escort dispensed if battalion is not got (P.T.O.

HOME COMMANDS
Operations.

17/S.

SECRET

R.M. Landing, Hook of Holland.

Following from Major Mitchell, Royal Marines. Am of the opinion that one composite force in support of my force would not have any material effect without aircraft support being considerably strengthened. General situation still, but appears unchanged in vicinity of the Hook.

(HYPERION, 1405/12)

Following for Marines, Hook. Large numbers parachute troops reported landing beyond woods 1½ miles to my front at 1900. All destroyers sailed tonight and are now without supporting fire should this be required at the present time. (C in C Nore 2207/12 to HEREWARD)

(Via Dover, 2038/12

Imperative one destroyer arrives Hook forthwith to support Marines. (C in C Nore, 2236/12) Your 2236. I am endeavouring to arrange (HEREWARD 2328/12)

COACH CAUSING THE ENGINE, LUGGAGE VAN AND THREE COACHES

TO RUN OFF THE LINES.

INJURED WERE TAKEN TO HOSPITAL. -REUTER.

S-1

12.15 PAPEN DELAYS DEPARTURE.

ISTANBUL, MAY 4: VON PAPEN HAS POSTPONED HIS DEPARTURE

FOR BERLIN FOLLOWING NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE WILHELMSTRASSE,

SAYS AN ANKARA DISPATCH.

S-1 --REUTER.

HOME COMMANDS 12.5.40
Operations. Sun

SECRET

Hoole of Holland.

Battalion can be sent.

W.O. Can send one Composite Guards battalion tonight. ~~Rapid~~ Force is too small to restore a bad or deteriorating situation but by its moral rather than its military effect might tip the scales if situation is nearing restoration by Dutch. Report on situation (VCNS 1053/12 to Major Mitchell RM.)

Pass to O.C. Royal Marine Force. If Guards Battalion is sent tonight Sunday, ship will also carry two wireless trucks. Endeavour to arrange for 60 gallons of petrol to be provided on quay and for cranage to disembark trucks. Maximum weight 3 tons.

1732/12)

~~for~~ D. of P.

OST PRESTIGE."

CONCERNED, A FAIR RECOVERY HAS ENSUED. -NG-

GILT EDGED WHICH STARTED WELL BELOW LAST NIGHT'S CLOSING LEVELS HAVE SINCE MADE A GOOD RECOVERY.

IN THE FOREIGN MARKET SUEZ CANAL SHARES HAVE DECLINED FROM 90 TO 85, WHILE THE FRENCH STERLING RAILWAY BONDS HAVE CONCEDED 1/2 A POINT AND EGYPTIAN UNIFIED HAVE LOST A SIMILAR AMOUNT TO 74 EX.

OILS ARE DULL, ANGLO-EGYPTIAN STANDING AT 2-7/8 AND ANGLO-IRANIAN AT 2-19/32.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE HOME RAILWAY COMPANIES ARE INCLUDED IN THE DIVIDEND LIMITATIONS HAS CAUSED A SET-BACK IN THAT GROUP, GREAT WESTERN DECLINING TO 44-1/2 AND L.M.S. ORDINARY TO 21.

INDUSTRIALS SHOW LOSSES OF A FEW PENCE THROUGHOUT THE LIST AND IN THE KAFFIR MARKET CAPE OFFERINGS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DULNESS. --REUTER

M-2

SECRET

12.5 1940

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
R.M. Landing, Hook of Holland

VERITY and VENOMOUS left Dover at 2345 for Hook of Holland with landing parties of Royal Marines arriving after daylight. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 0005/12)

Coastal Command to provide protection for disembarkation of marines at 0600 B S T 12/5. Fighter Command to support Blenheims with 8-gunfighters. (Air Ministry, 0145/12)

VERITY, VENOMOUS arrived, Royal Marines landed. Major-Gen. Oorschot, Lieut.-Col. Zegers and 2 Dutch naval officers taking passage to U.K. in VERITY and VENOMOUS, sailing 0800 B S T. (HYPERION, 0640/12)

TO STIFFEN HER DETERMINATION. TURKEY, OUR ALLY, REMAINS
UNPERTURBED.

B-2 SEE 5.....

16.16 CHAMBERLAIN FLASH...

"IF SWEDEN DECIDED ON NEUTRALITY IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE I
TRUST IT WILL BE STRICTLY IMPARTIAL BETWEEN THE BELLIGERE

B-2 --REUTER

Operations

~~Danish Sea~~ Helder

12.5-40

Sunday.

SECRET

GRIFFIN,

Situation.

Situation at Helder given by C. in C. at 1900 today. ~~Sunday.~~ Germans attacking East end of Dam. He stated Dutch holding them and requested assistance of ship to bombard East Coast of Zuider Zee by Dam. Dutch warship is proceeding to this tomorrow. He also requested motor torpedo boats to patrol Zuider Zee to southward of Dam to prevent Germans crossing by steamer. Most urgent need he stated was fighter aircraft, an aerodrome is available at Anna Paulowna. ~~H.M.S.~~ GRIFFI was not able to oil and sailed 2000 owing to necessity of clearing Channel before dark. Your 1930 and your 1952 were received after sailing, am returning to Harwich to oil. Have no high explosive ammunition le on board.

(GRIFFIN, 2200/12.)

HOME COMMANDS

~~SECRET~~

12.5.40
Sunday

Operations

Helder

~~Zuider Zee~~.

GRIFFIN

To proceed immediately if possible and attack Germans crossing the Long Dam across Zuider Zee, chart 2322. (C-in-C Nore, 1930/12) Withdraw daylight if attack too heavy. Another destroyer will relieve you later. (C-in-C Nore 1950/12). D.1 to detail one destroyer (not MOHAWK or JANUS) to collect local pilot at Helder and relieve GRIFFIN after daylight (C-in-C Nore 1952/12)

To 3rd M.T.B. Flotilla: Urgently required to stop Germans now crossing across west Zuider Zee dam. Consult with Dutch whether M.T.B. might fire torpedoes running shallow to destroy dyke later. (C-in-C Nore 2007/12) 3rd M.T.B.F. proceeding (D-1, 0023/13)

Understood Zuider Zee dyke has a thick protective wall 8ft. high on northern side, making it possible for troops to pass unobserved from seaward, and destroy five possibly ineffective. If possible confirm practicability of attack with local authorities before taking action. (C-in-C Nore to GRIFFIN, 2146/12)

2

09.32 NAZI BOYS EXHORTED TO FIGHT THE "INTERNAL ENEMY"

MAY 6: THE NEED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE ENEMY WITHIN THE COUNTRY WAS THE MAIN TOPIC OF A SPEECH WHICH HERR RUST, GERMAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ADDRESSED TO NAZI YOUTH THIS MORNING.

HERR RUST SPOKE AT THE HORST WESSEL SCHOOL IN COLOGNE AND HIS SPEECH WAS BROADCAST BY ALL GERMAN STATIONS.

"I KNOW THAT YOU GERMAN BOYS REGRET YOUR YOUTH AND WISH TO JOIN THE WAR AS SOLDIERS", HE SAID. "I APPRECIATE YOUR FEELINGS, BUT THERE ARE OTHER TASKS AWAITING YOU - TASKS WHICH ARE, PERHAPS, AS GREAT AS THOSE OF THE SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT.

SECRET 12-5-40

Operations
Helder
~~Zuider Zee~~

Admiral Furstner asks for early provision of craft to operate against imminent German thrust Zuider Zee. Maximum draught seven feet. KING FISHER class appears suitable. M.T.B's very useful. French being also asked to provide. M.T.B's should proceed Ymuiden, other types Texel. 0815.

(NA, Hague, 1230/12) Passed to V.A. Dover (1355/12)

Request for M.T.B.'s

Flushing heavily bombed by planes. Island of Walcheren strongly held by French forces. French troops are beyond Antwerp and Antwerp is strongly held. Dutch ask urgently that M.T.Bs of not more than seven feet draught be sent to the Helder to operate in Zuiderzee. (French Admty., 1043/12) (O.D.I.C. 1203/12)
Comdr. Peterson has arrived Flushing. (KIMBERLEY, 1100/12)

16.14 HOUSE OF COMMONS : STEEL PRODUCTION. MAY 8.

ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD TAKE STEPS TO SUBSTITUTE THE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE CONTROL NOW EXERCISED OVER THE STEE INDUSTRY BY THE BANKS MR BURGIN SAID THAT HE DID NOT ACCEPT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THAT QUESTION. "THE CONTROL NOW EXERCISED BY MY DEPARTMENT OVER THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY IS, IN MY VIEW, SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THAT THE FULLEST POSSIBLE USE IS MADE OF THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF THE INDUSTRY." --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
~~Zuider Zee~~ Helder

12.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

MTB's

3 MTB's expected Harwich
Ymuiden on passage to Amsterdam
2030/12 (C in C Nore 1641/12 to
GRIFFIN, Capt. D(1), Dtg,
HYPERION)

Measures to be concerted with Dutch

Destroyer ~~Hdn~~ sent with despatches to
Helder to discuss with Dutch possibility
of cooperation in ~~Zuy~~ Zuyder Zee. Report
if MTB's can be used (C in C Nore 1001/12)

GRIFFIN

is short of fuel and has been ordered to
return to Sheerness as soon as your
1001/12 is complied with (Capt. D 1 1138/12)

Germans have taken N.E. part of Zuyderzee Barrier Dyke up to locks.

If aircraft cannot be sent Marine-staff urgently request anti-aircraft machine-guns with personnel to be sent to Helder soon as possible.

(2 X 2, 1630/12)

PAPERS: REUTER

B-1

11.58 SECOND ADD - REPORTED GERMAN LINK IN NORWAY

THE EVACUATED NORWEGIAN PRISONERS DECLARE THAT THE GERMANS IN NARVIK BELIEVE THAT THEY CANNOT HOLD OUT FOR MORE THAN A WEEK LONGER.

IN NARVIK, THE NORWEGIANS STATE THERE IS GREAT SPECULATION

Dutch Coast (General) 12.8.40

ARCTIC HUNTER.

~~906.~~ (Your 1915, not to Admiralty.

Remain at Hook if possible.

If not retire to Flushing.

Commander Peterson at Flushing may give you further orders.

(C-in-C Nore, 2155/12).

~~905.~~ Cancel my 2155.

Remain at Hook if possible and keep entrance clear.

If necessary retire to Flushing.

Commander Peterson at Flushing may give you further orders.

(C-in-C Nore, 2301/13)

"ONE OF THE MOST TERRIBLE THINGS IS THAT IN THE EYES OF THE NEUTRAL WORLD BRITISH PRESTIGE HAS BEEN BADLY LET DOWN.

TODAY I SEE A SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT FROM ONE OF OUR BEST KNOWN AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS, THE SYDNEY SUN, WHICH REFERS TO GRAVE DOUBT THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CAPACITY TO PUT THE NECESSARY DRIVE INTO THE WAR EFFORT. THAT IS A REFLECTION OF AUSTRALIAN OPINION WHICH NONE OF US CAN IGNORE.

MR MORRISON MAINTAINED THAT THE FINNISH FORCE OUGHT NOT TO HAVE BEEN SCATTERED BUT READY FOR ACTION AT ANY MOMENT.

"THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR STANLEY STRESSED THE POINT THAT WE COULD NOT LET NORWAY DOWN, AND THAT WAS NOT CHALLENGED FROM ANY PART OF THE HOUSE (CHEERS). BUT THE MORE I HEAR THE MORE I WONDER WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT INSTEAD OF TAKING IT SERIOUSLY AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF WAR OPERATIONS, WERE MERELY DISCHARGING WHAT THEY CONCEIVED TO BE A MORAL OBLIGATION.

"HOW MUCH EXPERIENCE DO MINISTERS NEED BEFORE THEY UNDERSTAND THE PSYCHOLOGY OF HITLER? WE MUST UNDERSTAND HIS PSYCHOLOGY.

"THE GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR SUCH EVENTS

HOME COMMANDS 12.5.40
~~Sunday~~
Sunday

SECRET

Operations
Dutch Coast.

HAVOCK — returns to Harwich for refuel (CinC Nore 1205/12)

WHITLEY — Proceed forthwith to Dover with all dispatch (Cdr. ¼ Sheerness 1838/12)

WINDSOR — not now required for refugees and will sail 2200 to rejoin HEREWARD who is to give her a RV. (Capt. (D) 2 2141/12)

HAVOCK, which for. — Your 1705 will advise HEREWARD to send one destroyer into Hook at daylight 13/5 (Capt D1, 1733/12 to HYPERION)
Your 1638 (joining with Capt. D1 off Whistle Buoy) who will take over here as HAVOCK is proceeding direct to Harwich to oil (HYPERION 1705/12 to Capt D1)
Join me off Whistle Buoy 1840/12. (Capt D1 1638/12 to HYPERION, WILD SWAN)

Dutch SS PRINCESS JULIANA has sailed for Flushing with troops and expects to arrive Ymuiden 0800/12 (CinC Nore 0413/12 to Capt D1, MOHAWK.) (Bombed and abandoned, see Air

WASHINGTON, MAY [illegible] PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT HAS FORCED A [illegible]

BILL THAT WOULD EXTEND TO COTTON THE SYSTEM OF FEDERAL CROP

INSURANCE NOW APPLIED TO WHEAT. --REUTER.

S-1

IN 17.44 MESSAGE PLEASE READ HEADING:

- SEVENTY EXPORT GROUPS FORMED -

AND ALSO IN THE FOURTH LINE: ..SOMETHING LIKE SEVENTY EXPORT ETC.

12.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

Dutch coast. (General)

MOHAWK
SANUS — Proceed towards Scheveningen. Capt. D is to call on you if he needs further support. If not carry out A/S search towards Vlissingen and return to Humber if air attack too heavy (C in C Nore 0402/12)

MALCOLM
WIVERN — Malcolm return to harbour. WIVERN remain on patrol (VA Dover 0755/12)

Troop transports. — 4 fast liners Zeeland Steamship Co. with reduced crews arrived Harwich awaiting orders are available for troop transport to Holland – PRINCESS BEATRIX, KONIGEN EMMA, PRINCESS JULIANA, WEEKLENBARG. (Message received 13/5/40 ~~via~~ D.N.L.O. – PRINCESS JULIANA had meantime been bombed and abandoned off the Hook, at 1116/12).

Military Situation. — Reports at 0840 and 1030 from Military Attaché, The Hague, read 1040 and 1520/12.

WE SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT EVERY SKILLED MAN SHOULD BE USED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF HIS SKILL AND POWER.

MR BURGIN CALLED FOR THE UTMOST EFFORT OF HOME PRODUCTION AND SAID THAT DESPITE THE REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT TO LESS THAN A MILLION THE ABSORPTION OF LABOUR WAS NOT YET FAST ENOUGH. DELIVERIES OF WAR MATERIALS WERE IMPROVING BUT SHOULD BE BETTER STILL.

"I THINK," HE ADDED, "THAT IT IS WELL FOR ALL OF US AT HOME TO REALISE THAT THOSE WHO ARE SERVING IN THE FORCES ARE MAKING A GREATER PHYSICAL SACRIFICE THAN WE ARE. IT IS UP TO US TO ENSURE THAT THEY WILL NOT BE SHORT OF SUPPLIES THROUGH ANY SHORTCOMING OF OURS." --REUTER

M-1

SECRET

12.5.1940
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Dutch Coast (general)

Cruisers. If enemy cruisers move towards Holland I should be glad to have strong cruiser reinforcements. (C. in C., Nore, 0951/12)

Your 0951/12. MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD and YORK are at Rosyth at two hours' notice at your disposal. MANCHESTER is not degaussed but arrangements have been made to fit temporary D.G. if ship is placed at four hours' notice. (C.in C., H.F., 1037/12)

BIRMINGHAM, etc., Orders. Remain in harbour at half-hour's notice. Sail without further orders if you hear definite news of German surface warships moving towards Dutch coast. (C.in C., Nore, to BIRMINGHAM, C.S.2, and destroyers, 0855/12)

If our destroyers harass enemy the German Army may demand naval help. It is suggested that additional magnetic mines in entrance to German harbours would be beneficial. (C in C, Nore, 1012/12)

Please place MANCHESTER at 4 hours' notice and continue work of degaussing. (C in C Nore 1217/12)

FOR SAYING THE FINAL WORD, AND THAT NORWAY "IS NOT GOING TO BECOME A SECONDARY THEATRE OF WAR."

IT IS ALSO STRESSED THAT CONFIDENCE IS FELT IN THE DETERMINATION TO MAKE AN ENERGETIC EFFORT TO TURN THE TIDE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

S-1 --REUTER.

T11.08 NORWEGIAN RAILWAYS CARRYING GERMAN REINFORCEMENTS.

BERLIN, MAY 3: MANY RAILWAYS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN NORWAY ARE NOW RUNNING NORMALLY AGAIN, STATES THE OFFICIAL GERMAN NEWS AGENCY TODAY, QUOTING AUTHORITATIVE BERLIN CIRCLES.

THE RAILWAYS AFBLE. 'NG USED FOR CARRYING GERMAN REINFORCEMENTS,

"I DESIRE TO EXAMINE

SECRET

SECRET

12.5 1940

HOME COMMANDS

Dutch Coast (General)

troops equested

Ref. telegram 41 of May 11. Sending of troops additional to those suggested in my telegram of May 11 to Ymuiden is strongly recommended by Military Attache, proposes they be sent to Hook of Holland to operate between there and Hague. H.M. Minister stresses importance of our doing all possible to assist in safeguarding the Hague. (N.A., Hague, 0240/12)

10.00 "SEVERAL ENEMY PLANES PROUGHT DOWN"

NEW YORK, MAY 10.: "OUR LAND AND AIR FORCES HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND SEVERAL ENEMY PLANES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT DOWN," DR ALEXANDER LOUDON, THE DUTCH MINISTER TO THE UNITED STATES, SAID IN A BROADCAST EARLY THIS MORNING.

THE MINISTER ADDED THAT THE PARACHUTE LANDINGS HAD BEEN RENDERED INEFFECTIVE. --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS

SECRET

12 5 40
~~Dowley~~
Sunday

Operations (General)

~~Dorkcock~~

N. Goodwin
~~Broadridge~~
Patrol

MALCOLM return to harbour. WIVERN remain on patrol (VA Dover 0755/12)

Unless you have Dutch mission on board relieve WIVERN on North Goodwin patrol. WIVERN return to harbour. (NOIC Dover 0853/12 to VENOMOUS)

~~GRENADE~~ GRENADE return sailing GRENADE for Dover 0900/13. With all despatch. (FOIC Liverpool 1050/12)

WOLSEY Sailed 0945 for Dover (CiC WA 1132/12)

Patrols for night 12/13 May:
North Goodwin Patrol - VENOMOUS
Trawlers on OC 3 to 7
Flare drifters disposed along coast
(VA Dover 1935/12 & NOIC Harwich 2144/12)

721. My 1453* 22nd April after Egypt add Netherlands East Indies. From exceptions delete Dutch possessions.

(FOCNP 2237/12 to N.P.)

* Conditions under which Norwegian ships may pass patrols.

IN 11.05 MESSAGE READ NEAR END:

....COUNT THE GERMAN DEAD, IT IS ADDED.

11.26 SHANGHAI EXCHANGES. MAY 4.

MERCHANT RATES: LONDON, CASH..3 NEW YORK, CASH..4-5/16

HONKONG, CASH..20

MARKET RATES: LONDON, CASH..3-5/32

NEW YORK, CASH..4-9/16 HONGKONG, CASH..21

NO FORWARD MARKET. QUIET.

THE EXCHANGE STABILISATION COMMITTEE'S OFFICIAL RATE

FOR STERLING WAS FIXED TODAY AT 1/2-1/2 AND THE EQUALISATION

War Diary. ~~Situation Report.~~ 12.5.1940 ~~Saturday.~~ Sunday.

SECRET

British Precautions

Tyne — Naval military and civil authorities have accepted sinking ships in Tyne and Tees to immobilise ports in event of Germans attempting invasion. Have refused to consider this suggestion as practicable (FO, Tyne, 1110/12)

Eastchurch — Supplied with rifles and ammunition for ~~Eastchurch~~ Chatham. (C in C Nore, 1147/12)

12.16 GERMAN HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE.

BERLIN, MAY 4: TODAY'S GERMAN HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE STATES:

"NORTH OF NARVIK GERMAN OUTPOSTS REPULSED ENEMY ATTACKS.

"AT NARVIK ITSELF THE SITUATION IS UNCHANGED.

"GERMAN DETACHMENTS ADVANCING NORTH OF TRONDHJEM ENCOUNTERED ONLY THE RESISTANCE OF THE NORWEGIAN TROOPS, AS THE WESTERN POWERS HAVE LEFT THE AREA IN PRECIPITOUS FLIGHT.

"THE NORWEGIAN COMMANDER IN THE TRONDHJEM REGION HAS ISSUED AN ORDER OF THE DAY IN WHICH HE STATES WITH BITTERNESS THAT THE WESTERN POWERS WITHDREW THEIR TROOPS WITHOUT GIVING HIM ANY PREVIOUS WARNING.

"THE NORWEGIAN TROOPS BEING MENACED IN THE REAR AND THE

HOME COMMANDS 12.5.40
Movements Sunday.

SECRET

VEQA — Suggest VEQA now refitting at
WALLACE — Chatham should be placed under orders of C-in-C Nore and WALLACE should be retained under order of C-in-C Rosyth (C-in-C Nore 1159/12)

S/M's Position 0600/13 (OC, 2025/12) (VCS 1852/12)

SIR JOHN SIMON WHEN ASKED IF WHEN PREPARING OUR POST-WAR MONETARY POLICY, HE WOULD EXAMINE THE REASONS FOR THE COUNCIL OF THE U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD DECLARING ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS LAST YEAR THAT LOW RATES OF INTEREST HAD DONE UNDENIABLE ECONOMIC INJURY TO THE U.S., REPLIED:

"CONDITIONS IN THE U.S. AND THIS COUNTRY ARE OF COURSE BY NO MEANS THE SAME. THE MATTER WILL BE EXAMINED AS AND WHEN DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. THE OPINION IN QUESTION WAS GIVEN BY THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL AND NOT BY THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD". --REUTER.

S-1

17.50 HOUSE OF COMMONS - GOVERNMENT FIRE IN URANCE.

MAY 7: ASKED FOR WHAT REASONS IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO [illegible] STOCKS OF MATERIAL HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST

SITUATION REPORT. 12.5.40
Sunday

SECRET

his allowers.

KELLY reported at 0745 that she was in tow of 2 tugs and going well. A battle flight and Sunderland A/S escort were then in contact with her. She was again attacked from the air during the forenoon, but without any material success.

SEALION attacked 2 southward bound screened transports in Skagerrak 6/5 and believed she made 2 hits.

Air.

aircraft from 15 out of the 16 first line long rge bombing Geschwader have been identified as taking part in air operations in Norway, the Low Countries, and France. It is estimated that 60% of the strength of the whole long range bomber force have now been engaged.

10.18 ANOTHER GERMAN SHIP SCUTTLED.

ARUBA ISLAND (DUTCH WEST INDIES) MCH 2: THE GERMAN STEAMER TROJA (2,390 TONS) HAS BEEN SCUTTLED OFF THIS ISLAND.

S-2 --REUTER.

V

RYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRY.

RYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRYRY.

TESTING TESTING TESTING TESTING TESTING TESTING TESTING TESTING.

SECRET

Low Countries.

~~All~~ 16 German dispositions ~~have been~~ intercepted, half of which are armoured or motor.

War Diary SITUATION REPORT

Low Countries. 12.5.40

Sunday

SECRET

~~Low Countries.~~ at 1630 ~~at 163~~

~~Zuider~~ Zee. Helder

The Germans were stated to be attacking the East end of the Afsluit Dyke across the Zuider Zee, ~~at 1400/12~~, and the Dutch C in C asked for a ships to bombard the East Coast of the Zuider Zee and 2 M TB's to patrol southward of the dam to prevent the Germans crossing by steamer. ~~2 MTB's~~

~~H.M.S.~~ GRIFFIN was sent through the Texel Channel to help the Dutch defence, ~~She was~~ being later relieved by H.M.S. VALOROUS supported by 4 Blenheims; but the Dutch had to fall back across the Dyke at 1720/12. Attack from the north on Germans advancing along this Dyke is difficult as there is a wall 8 feet high on the seaward side behind which they can move unmolested. Three M.T.Bs entered the Zuyder Zee through the North Holland ~~Canal~~ Canal from Ijmuiden as the Germans are reported to be embarking mechanised transport in flat bottomed boats ~~from~~ for an invasion of the Province of North Holland behind the Dutch front in the Provinces of Gelderland and Utrecht.

SWEDISH CORRESPONDENTS ADD THAT THE TROOPS WENT ON BOARD THEIR SHIPS IN GOOD ORDER AND WITHOUT BEING CAUSED ANY CONSIDERABLE LOSSES OR DIFFICULTIES BY THE GERMANS.

THE SWEDISH PRESS TODAY GIVES MUCH PROMINENCE TO THE REPORTED ACCUSATION OF COL. GETZ, COMMANDER OF THE NORWEGIAN TROOPS IN NORTH TRONDETAG, THAT "THE BRITISH AND FRENCH STOLE AWAY WITHOUT INFORMING THE NORWEGIANS."

THE WAR OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT SAYING THERE WAS NO FOUNDATION FOR THE STATEMENT AS WELL AS THE NORWEGIAN REMINDER THAT COL. GETZ COULD SPEAK ONLY FOR HIS OWN AREA ARE, HOWEVER, WELL DISPLAYED. --REUTER

B-1

SECRET

Situation Report.

12.5.1940
~~Saturday.~~

Rotterdam. Waalhaven aerodrome is thought to have been rendered unfit for use by aerial bombing; and the Germans have occupied a car park and stadium south of Rotterdam, and are using them as a landing ground. ~~The Dutch have asked for British destroyers to Boulogne, and HEREWARD has gone to the south~~

Naval assistance for the recovery of the Waalhavn aerodrome at Rotterdam was declined by the Dutch at 1335/12. About two hours later the situation at Rotterdam, where the Germans have landed artillery which had been brought in Swedish ships and are receiving reinforcements by air in troping carrying aircraft of which 15 arrive every hour escorted by fighters, became worse. The Dutch asked for British destroyers to Boulogne, and HEREWARD was sent.

16.45 ADD WAR DEBATE (MORRISON)

MR MORRISON URGED THAT MR CHURCHILL SHOULD SPEAK EARLY IN THE DEBATE RATHER THAN WAIT FOR THE SUMMING UP. OTHERWISE THERE COULD BE NO COMMENT ON HIS EVIDENCE, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S PRINCIPAL WITNESS (AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER) WOULD HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY KEPT OUT OF THE BOX.

SIR JOHN SIMON'S PROPHECY THAT THE PUBLIC, WHEN THE FACTS WERE KNOWN, WOULD APPROVE THE ACTION TAKEN HAD NOT BEEN FULFILLED.

SIR SAMUEL HOARE IN HIS RECENT BROADCAST GAVE AN EVEN BRIGHTER PICTURE OF OPERATIONS IN NORWAY.

SECRET

Magnetic mines were exploded and at 1755/12 HYPERION reported that the sweepers reported the French channel to the Hook is clear.

Flushing. The French are now strongly established in Walcheren Island, and the presence of the small British force which provisionally occupied Flushing is no longer considered necessary. Two German air raids on Flushing on 12/5 sank a Dutch gunboat but caused few casualties among the troops.

War Diary SITUATION REPORT 12.5.40 Sunday

SECRET

~~Low Countries~~.

Hook. Thirteen destroyers are operating off the Hook today, wherever Germans are to be seen landing; and 2 are to patrol off Broom Ridge, in the North Sea.

200 R.A.F.'s were landed at the Hook (early this morning) from VERITY and VENOMOUS, to hold the landing place pending the arrival of a larger force.

LL trawlers arrived at the Hook at dawn to operate. The Walling Low mine sweeping flight is standing by at short notice. (Run on)

MOSELLE, ALSO BETWEEN THE BLIES AND THE VOSGES". --REUTER.

S-2

T

10.53 "PARADE GROUND" WITHDRAWAL FROM NAMSOS.

STOCKHOLM, MAY 4: THE BRITISH AND FRENCH TROOPS RE-EMBARKED AT NAMSOS, "JUST AS IF THEY WERE ON THE PARADE GROUND", ACCORDING TO THE ACCOUNTS OF SWEDISH CORRESPONDENTS IN NORTH TRONDELAG, THE DISTRICT ROUND TRONDHEIM.

THE TROOPS ARE STATED TO HAVE ASSEMBLED JUST OUTSIDE NAMSOS AND MARCHED DOWN FOR EMBARKATION TO TEMPORARY WOODEN PIERS WHICH HAD REPLACED THE QUAYS PREVIOUSLY COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED BY GERMAN AIRCRAFT.

SECRET

Situation Report.

12.5.1940
~~Saturday.~~
Sunday

Low Countries.

Refugees for the UK are being embarked at Ymuiden in SS DOTTERELL. SS MALINES arrived at Tilbury today with 200 refugees.

~~Ground.~~

The military mission has been landed at Flushing.

Rotterdam, Ostend and Zeebrugge are closed, and enemy magnetic mines have been laid off Ymuiden.

Mines.

Air. Intense aerial activity continued throughout the day. CODRINGTON, HAVOCK, HEREWARD, MOHAWK, VIVACIOUS and other ships were attacked almost continuously by dive bombers from 0700 onwards in ≠ various positions off the Dutch coast, though there are no reports of ships being hit.

Enemy a/c's bombed Flushing, Hook, and Breskens~~to~~.

The landing of parachute troops has continued at many points and troops carrying a/c's have landed on the beach north of Scheveningen at low water.

The Dutch SS PRINCESS JULIANA was attacked and hit by bombs after being mined off the Dutch coast.

ENTERED BULGARIA AND 3,28) LEFT.

S-1 --REUTER.

09.30 AIR CRASH IN MALAYA.

SINGAPORE, MAY 4: THREE PERSONS, INCLUDING THE PILOT, WERE KILLED WHEN A COMMERCIAL AEROPLANE CRASHED IN CENTRAL MALAYA IN A TERRIFIC THUNDERSTORM LATE LAST NIGHT.

THE PILOT, MR GEORGE MCCAUSLAND, WAS CHIEF PILOT O THE SERVICE.

War Diary. 125

SECRET

SITUATION REPORT

Low Countries.

~~Holland~~. Situation 1630/12.

16 German divisions have been identified in the Low Countries, half of which are armoured or mobile.

Holland.

The situation has deteriorated. The ~~Zuyder~~ Zuyder Zee Dyke, if lost, will enable the Germans to enter North Holland in the South, Moer Dijk bridge has been passed by armoured cars, and unless the bridges at Dordrecht are destroyed the Germans South of Rotterdam will be reinforced.

Belgium.

It seems possible that the German plan may be to reinforce the original thrust from Maastricht by a similar ~~and~~ thrust to the North.

FEW MINOR SET-BACKS WON'T DO ANY REAL HARM.

B-2 --REUTER

10.38 STOCK MARKETS QUIET FIRM. MAY 8.

QUIETLY FIRM CONDITIONS MARKED THE OPENING THIS MORNING.

GILT-EDGED ARE AGAIN SHOWING AN IMPROVED TENDENCY,

WITH CONSOL 2-1/2%'S AT 76-1/2.

KAFFIR DIVIDEND PAYERS HAVE ALSO STRENGTHENED BUT IN THE

OIL MARKET ROYAL DUTCH HAVE DECLINED TO AROUND 24-1/2 NOMINAL.

SITUATION REPORT 12.5.40
Sunday

Norway.

SECRET

JACKAL/ landed Col. Gubbins and 100 men at Bodo 1000/12, and a further 350 were landed later from a Norwegian Steamer, escorted by JAVELIN.

ENTERPRISE unloaded ammunition in the Mo area.

DEVONSHIRE at Kirkenes reports that the situation there is quiet.

"THE NORWEGIAN [illegible] GOT INFORMATION THAT A LARGE GERMAN NAVAL FORCE WAS MOVING TOWARDS AND ALONG THE WEST COAST OF NORWAY. THAT EVENING THE MAIN BATTLE FLEET AND THE SECOND CRUISER SQUADRON SAILED FROM SCAPA AND ROSYTH IN THE HOPE OF ENGAGING THE ENEMY.

ON MONDAY, APRIL 8, THE FIRST CRUISER SQUADRON SAILED TO JOIN IN THE OPERATIONS.

"ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 9 GERMAN LAND FORCES ENTERED DENMARK AND, AIDED BY INTERNAL TREACHERY PREPARED LONG BEFOREHAND, NAVAL FORCES SEIZED AND LANDED TROOPS AT OSLO, STAVANGER, B RGEN AND TRONDHJEM.

"ON THE SAME DAY H.M.S. RENOWN WHICH WAS ACCOMPANYING THE DESTROYERS WATCHING OVER THE MINEFIELD NEAR NARVIK ENGAGED THE GERMAN BATTLE CRUISER SCHARNHORST OFF THE NORTHERN COAST OF NORWAY OPPOSITE NARVIK IN EXTREMELY BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS AND LOW VISIBILITY, INFLICTING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE ALTHOUGH FULL REPORTS OF THIS WERE NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL THE 11TH.

"IN THE MEANTIME OUR DESTROYERS HAD DISCOVERED A

SITUATION REPORT. 12.5.40
Sunday

~~Norway~~. Norway.

The enemy have taken Narvik and are advancing by sea, land, and air. The 400 troops in NORD NORGE who landed about 15 miles SW of Mo before ~~Mo~~ CALCUTTA sank her. 2 CL vs to remain in the vicinity of Narvik, and reconnoitre, 1 destroyer, a sloop and a store ships with ~~450~~ troops ~~have sailed~~ from the Narvik area and ~~should~~ landed at ~~Mo~~ Bodo ~~on~~ ~~Mo 12/5~~ during the forenoon 12/5.

Mo is held by the Norwegians. Other 1000 Germans are reported to be holding Hemnes Peninsula, disguised in Norwegian uniforms.

Enemy a/c's continued coastal reconnaissance flights in Narvik and Harstad area; ENTERPRISE, FLEETWOOD and Shipley ships MARGOT were attacked continuously during the forenoon whilst unloading at Mo.

It is understood that troops transport activity still continues actively in Norway and our a/c's report a considerable concentration of enemy a/c's at Stavanger. GLORIOUS and FURIOUS sailed about midday, but were recalled to the Clyde at 1415/12. (No date can be given when ~~12~~ 12. The aerodromes at Bardufoss and Skaanland will be ready, ~~as~~ ~~Hurricanes~~ ~~are~~ but the carriers were ordered to land their Gladiators and Hurricanes at Bardufoss aerodrome which will be ready by 15/5.

PROTECTOR is to clear for the Mediterranean and convoy small ships which can be spared to being sent to the U.K.

SECRET

May 1940

WAR DIARIES, R.of P, SUMMARIES &C. RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 1940.

TRITON.	Patrol Report 22/4-4/5/40. (U.A.S. No.316/S.M.1054) (dated 8/5/40). Attack on German supply ship off Bjorne Fjord.
Aberdeen Naval Base, War Diary.	1/5 to 14/5. (T.S.D. 4152/40).
BIRMINGHAM.	R. of P. 7 to 9 April 1940 (with the Home Fleet) (M/08967/40).
CONVOY FN 60.	R. of P. 4 May 1940 (M/09072/40).
Naval Rep. to Norwegian Government.	Diary of P. 14 to 21 April 1940. Situation at Andalsnes. Landing of Naval 3-7 inch howitzer. (M/07951/40).
C.-in-C., China.	War Diary 1 to 29 February 1940. (T.S.D.4127/40.)
AMAZONE.	French submarine patrol report 4 to 12 April 1940. (M/07849/40.)
C.-in-C. Home Fleet.	Enemy heavy ship activity between 17 and 20 February 1940. Possible nature of (M/08976/40.)
Air Ministry.	Air report from Norway 28 February to 29 April 1940. (N.I.D./001718/40).
TARTAR.	R. of P. 30.4.-2.5.40 in operations off Norway (M/08922/40.) during the evacuation, at Molde.
CALYPSO. French S/m.	Patrol report 29/4 - 10/5/40. No.426/S.M. 1153.
WOLVERINE.	R. of P. 23/4 to 1/5. Namsos conditions. (M.08824/40).

WAR DIARIES, R.of P, SUMMARIES &c. RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 1940.

WINDSOR.	R. of P.15/5. Embarkation from Hook of Dutch Government and Belgian and Norwegian Legations. (M/09991/40.)
Hong Kong.	War Diary 1/1 to 31/1 (T.S.D.4126/40.)
VENDETTA.	Report of attack on U-boat 28/4. (M/09418/40.)
2nd C.S.	War Diary 1 to 30 April (T.S.D.4140/40.)
VERSATILE.	Report of attack on U-boat which sank ROYSTON GRANGE. (M.0493/40.)25 November 1939.
L.23.	Evacuation of Terschelling L.V. 17/18 May.(M.010156/40.)
TAKU (Submarine).	Patrol report 2/15 May (V.A.S.414/S.M. 1044).
s.s.CITY OF BRUSSELS.	At Brussels 10/12 May. Interciew with Master and Chief Officer. (T.D.Shipping casualties section 21/5/40.).
VIMIERA & WESTON.	Report of attack on U-boat 25/4/40. (M.09483/40.)
NIGER.	Report of attack on U-boat 21/2/40. (M.03974/40.)
NUBIAN.	R. of P. in Mosjoen and Bodo area 6/5 to 11/5 (M/09865/40.)
VALENTINE.	R. of P. 30/4-1/5 (M/09035/40.)
ANTENOR.	R. of P. 1/5 - 13/5/40. M 010244/40.
VESPER.	R. of P.13/5 - 15/5/40. M 09776/40.
SNAPPER.	R. of P.29/4 - 12/5/40. M 09530/40.
RUBIS. French S/m.	R. of P. 3/5 - 14/5/40. M 010038/40.

WAR DIARIES, R. of P, SUMMARIES &c. RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 1940.

CALYPSO. French S/m.	Patrol report 29/4 to 10/5/40.	M 09906/40.
Convoy FN 72.	R. of P. 15/5 - 17/5/40.	M 010165/40.
N.A. Buenos Aires.	War despatch 9/5/40.	T.S.D.4155/40.
FOIC Tyne area.	War diary 1/5-14/5/40.	T.S.D.4148/40.
N.C.S.O. Methil.	War diary 1/5-15/5/40.	M 010565/40.
TETRARCH.	Patrol report 12/5-26/5/40. Scuttling of Danish TERTEUEN. Capture of Danish IMMANUEL.	
Force Fork (Landing of Marines In Iceland)	L of P.6-21 May (M 010469/40).	
PELICAN.	R. of P. 25/4 - 6/5/40.	M 09725/40.
BERWICK, operation FORK.	R. of P. 7-11 May, (M 09981/40.)	
SEAWOLF.	Patrol report 6/5-19/5/40.	M. 010305.
Leith and Granton.	War diary 1/5 to 14/5.	T.S.D.4156/40 Unimportant.
SHARK.	Patrol report 7/5-24/5/40.	M010260/40.
SHEFFIELD.	R. of P. 21/4 - 2/5/40.	M.08958/40. Aandalsnes evacuation.
V.A.C.18th C.S.	War Diary 15/4 -2/5/40.	T.S.D. 4137/40. Aandalsnes & Molde Evacuation.
SUNFISH.	Patrol report 28/4-15/5/40.	M.09695/40.

WAR DIARIES, R.of P, SUMMARIES &c. RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 1940.

FIONA.	R.of P, 3/5-13/5/40. M. 010242/40. Contraband Control, Mediterranean.
R.A., Invergordon.	War Diary. 1/5-14/5/40. T.S.D. 4153/40.
CHAKLA.	R.of P. 23/4-5/5/40. M. 010237/40. Contraband Control, Mediterranean.
Convoy HX. 35.	R. of P. 14/4 - 3/5/40. M.09345/40.
Ymuiden.	Report of operations at 10/5 - 11/5. V.A.2.C.S. M.09345/40.
Quixote.	Operation Quixote. R.of P. JACKAL, JAVELIN, JAGUAR. M.010209/40.
Valentine.	Report on operation Valentine (Faroes). A.G., R.M., No. P.P. 1948.
CIRCE.	Patrol report 16-19 May 1940 (M.010960/40.) 0130/17 sighted two warships, probably destroyers. 0120/17 Rammed by LA SIBYLLE. Damage slight.
Rotterdam -	Report of German invasion 10/5 by Cdr. F.C.Hartley R.N.R, an N.C.O. Rotterdam. (T.D.621/40.) Naval matter is indexed chronologically in Diary.
THETIS French S/m.	R.of P. 16/5-25/5/40. No incidents. N.I.D./02267/40.
2.C.S.	War Diary 16/5-31/5/40. Bombardment of Batteries at Calais by GALATEA 26/5. T.S.D.4412/40.
JACKAL and JAVELIN.	R. of P., off Norway 27/4 - 12/5. (M.010157/40).

WAR DIARIES, R.of P, SUMMARIES &c. RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 1940.

TRIBUNE.	Patrol report 12/5 - 28/5.
N.O.I.C.Sunderland.	War Diary No.7 2/5 - 1/6 T.S.D.5137/40.
ANTIOPE.	French submarine patrol report 16/5 - 28/5. N.I.D. 02291/40.
VIMY.	R. of P.,Coast of Holland.12/5 - 13/5. M.09590/40.
R.A.Invergordon.	War Diary 15/5 - 31/5. T.S.D. 4661/40. Magnetic mine-sweeping. Schemes for defence and immobilisation.
N.O.I.C.,Tees. Hartlepool	War Diary 15/5 - 31/5 T.S.D.5161/40. Almost entirely Minesweeping.

2.5.40.
Thursday.

OPERATIONS.

Narvik - Norway.

Trawlers, Sunk.	Received from MASHONA; details of personnel embarked. Include crew of trawler, CAPE CHELYUSKIN. This vessel and JARDINE sunk 30/4. Crew of latter in NORTHERN PRIDE. Trawler WARWICKSHIRE believed sunk 28/4, no details. (F.O.C. 18 C.S., 1215/2)
Mosjoen Landing.	Report of CO., JANUS on loading of troops at Mosjoen 2/5. M.09349/40.
Aandalsnes evacuated.	Primrose embarked, leaving Aalsund now (D 60005/2) All rearguard embarked. Expect to arrive Scapa 0900/3 (AUCKLAND 1203/2)

Air.

STAGSHEAD L.N.25.	Fishing boat. Fired at by a/c, thought to be British a/c from No. 12 Group, F.C. Digby. In Wash (R.A.Humber I.D. 6686)

Mining.

Magnetic Mines	Operated by reversed polarity have been laid by enemy. Magnetic mines also fitted with delay action (Adty. 1947/2)

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Continued).

Narvik Area (Continued).

Proceed to Lavang Fiord 68°33'N., 16°35'E. by Tjeldsunder (F.O. Narvik 1401/10 to C.S.20. Repeated RESOLUTION).

PROTECTOR. Has had to be used for troop movements, and no nets have been laid. (R.A. Narvik, 0701/10) PROTECTOR is urgently required in Mediterranean and should be sailed for Rosyth without further delay after laying nets (D.O.D. (H) 2013/10).

Enemy Troops. 2 fast coastal steamers and 1 other carrying troops under air escort reported 225 degs. Mosjoen 70 and 45 miles respectively going north at 1000/10. Rendezvous and endeavour to intercept. (F.O. Narvik, to CALCUTTA, ZULU, 1155/10).

ZULU. Proceed towards Myken Light at present speed. If nothing sighted R.V. 158° DRIF 10 at 1700 (CALCUTTA 1408/10).

Operation BISHOP. Two Sub-Lieutenants, R.N.N. to be attached F.A.A. for liaison duties. (Fifth Sea Lord, 1939/10)
My 1820/8, Operation Bishop, ranks and ratings detailed to sail in MANELA on 18/5 may be granted leave, subject to immediate recall, up to p.m.15/5. (D.N.A.D. 1334/10).
My 1939/6, para. 9. Reserves consist of 3 Walrus and 3 Swordfish floatplanes. Arrangements for shipment will be signalled later. (D.N.A.D. 1643/10).

Landing pier. Reference Admiralty 2123/9 Paragraph 2 (c). Arrangements should be made for loading pier and craft mentioned. In addition for four horse boats for Scapa 10 with moorings should be made available at Southampton to meet requirements for Narvik which will be signalled. (D. of L.D. 1455/10 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

CALCUTTA Operation Transport Sunk. At 1000/10, 2 fast coastal steamers and a third steamer later identified as probably s.s. NORD NORGE carrying 400 troops were sighted about 70 and 45 miles respectively S.W. of Mosjoen. CALCUTTA and ZULU were sent to intercept and at 2104/10, CALCUTTA reported the NORD NORGE sunk off Mo. (I.C. 0447/40 CALCUTTA 2104/10), (F.O. Narvik 1724/10, 1411/10).
Your 2104/10. Did you see anything of German flying boats? (F.O. Narvik 2355/10).

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Merchant Ship Sunk. TRIDENT 0926/2 in Langenuen attacked northbound German merchant ship fired two torpedoes which may have run under. Engaged with gunfire until ship beached herself on Scorpa Island in Kors Fiord. Finished off with torpedo which exploded under forehold. Retired to open sea on surface at full speed. Dived for aircraft in entrance subsequently hunted by RAUM BOOTE from 1150 to 1515. Impracticable to patrol in Bjorne Fiord for more than two consecutive days unless utmost economy of battery has been possible on first day (S.2 1145/4)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

C. in C's Office. Transfer of my office from Malta to Alexandria will commence p.m. tomorrow (Friday) Communication arrangements. (C. in C. Med 1715/2)

East Indies.

Additional Routes. To avoid congestion following additional routes are established. Y1, Y1a, Y2, Y3, Z1, Z2, (details) (C. in C. EL 1114/2)

U.S.2. In event of it being decided that U.S.2 is to proceed to Egypt, considered it will be desirable to provide destroyer escort from Aden. At first step, request you sail 2 destroyers, preferably R.A.N, for Suez, to await orders (D.O.D(F) 2005/2)

Australia.

U.S.3. Commonwealth Govt. agree to escort for U.S.3 consisting of AUSTRALIA and LEANDER between Freemantle and Cape Town if this route is used and if N.2 Govt. can make LEANDER available (A.C.N.B. 1245Z/")

New Zealand.

N.Z.3 Departure Wellington portion of convoy NZ 3 with escort (S.O.I. Wellington 0019Z/2)

WAR DIARY.

10.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik Area.

Landing at Bodo. — Disembarkation at Bodo completed. Am sailing with transport. (NUBIAN 0200/10).

Narvik.

CAIRO. — Arrived (F.O. Narvik 1700/10).

MANCHESTER. SHEFFIELD. — Your 0928/10. Should work from Rosyth. (D.O.D.(H) 1026/10 to C. in C. H.F).

FURIOUS. — In view of new situation have postponed embarking 263 Gladiators Sqdn. now waiting Prestwick until further instructions are received. (FURIOUS, 1010/10) Your 1010/10. Gladiator Sqdn. is to be embarked as soon as possible. (V.C.N.S. 1530/10)

Landing of French Troops near Bjervik Postponed. — Operation intended for tonight, Friday, has had to be postponed 24 hours owing to weather, which caused one M.L.C. carrying tank to founder, personnel saved. (F.O., Narvik, 0915/10).

1st C.S. — Your 1229/9. Intend to pass through position 70.45'N., 21.00'W., at 1800. Request A/S escort may join me there. Request information whether any of our own forces now at Tromso. (F.O.C., 1 C.S., 0817/10.

N.S.3. — Your 1655/9 and my 1945/9. Subject to confirmation from F.O. Narvik that Convoy can be received request Convoy N.S.3 may be sailed so that REDCAR and ACRITY can R.V. and proceed in company.
(C. in C. H.F. 1054/10 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Your 2115/9. Do you want MANCHESTER and SHEFFIELD to work from Rosyth or further south. If so I can send YORK but this means sending up reserve of 8 inch ammunition. (C. in C. H.F. 0928/10 to Admiralty.)

Asking for crew to be sent for captured German Trawler MARGARET which will be commissioned as despatch vessel (R.A. Narvik 0702/10).

WESTCOTT, VOLUNTEER join DEVONSHIRE 70°45'N., 21°0'E at 1800/10. Complete with oil fuel at Tromso. No other force Tromso (F.O. Narvik 1122/10).

Request Norwegian sea pilots may accompany Course of Convoys to Norway (R.A. Narvik 1336/10)

War Diary

4.5.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U.S. 2. Admty. 2304/3 and 2351/30/4. U.S. 2. 2111 leave Colombo 2300Z/4 for Aden. (C. in C., E.I. 0820Z/4)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

SAN TIBURCIO mined and torpedoed at 1955 in position 4.2 miles 165° Tarbetness light house. No lives lost.

Position not in the swept channel but route was in accordance with sailing orders. Report asked for why the route given was selected. (R.A. Invergordon, War Diary, T.S.D. 4153/40)

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. 11.5.40.
Saturday.

French positions. 1200/11. Convoys Nil. Patrols one P.V. off Vigo (D.C.0011/11).

H.G.31. Route (D.T.D.1133/11).

Arrangements if Italy hostile Admiralty 1256/9. (11) 26th Divn. Destroyers would be detached to Eastern Mediterranean and Captain (D) 13 and 25th Divn retained. (111) A/S Trawlers. (iv) Assumed that Convoy commitment will cease. (v) French patrol to westward. (vi) Your estimate of Air Forces required considered insufficient. Require 12 flying boats and 5 Swordfish for full efficiency. FOCNA 1304/10 to Admiralty).

South Atlantic.

Belgian and Dutch ships Asking if homeward bound Belgian and Dutch ships should be ordered to Freetown to join convoy (NCSO Pernambuco 1105/11)

Mediterranean.

Italian preparations. Italian Navy are requisitioning number of motor fishing vessels and tugs. Similar action was taken in August 1939 and craft were then allocated mainly to N. Africa and Dodecanese. 2nd Sqn. appear to be concentrating at Naples. Situation otherwise unchanged. Army and R.A.F. Normal (Captain O.S. St. Angelo 1042/11)

Arrangements if Italy hostile
1. Reprisals Order in Council will be extended to Italy.
2. If Gibraltar overcrowded ships may be sent to Casablanca or allowed to proceed to Allied port outside Mediterranean on Master's undertaking to go there.
3. Malta base will be closed. Black Sea, Aegean and Adriatic traffic directed to Haifa.
4. Traffic from Far East will be dealt with at Aden. Southbound traffic continue to be dealt with at Port Said. D.C. (ACNS 1657/11).

War Diary

4.5.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air

GROM Sunk

Hit from 51000 feet, believed torpedo detonated and ship sank in 5 minutes. Lieut. (E) Krakowski and 65 ratings missing. All British ratings and liaison officer saved. 151 survivors, including 7 serious wounded, in RESOLUTION; 4 in AURORA (RESOLUTION, 1316/4)

Dive-Bombing Attacks

Detailed report of air attacks on 3/5. (C.S.I. 2122/4) J.U. 87 U's dive bombing from 10,000 feet in nearly vertical spiral dive releasing at 1,000 ft., angle of sight from target throughout more than 65°
Virtually impossible to engage with any existing weapons except Oerlikons.
(C. in C., H.F., War Diary 1/5- 15/5. T.S.D 0587/40)

Shipping

Feeling of Norwegian Crews

Master of s.s. EUTAMEUS reports that Master of a Norwegian ship at Liverpool informed him that all Norwegian ships in British ports would be scuttled if Allies evacuated Norway, as their crews fear that in such event Allies would seize all Norwegian vessels and forget Norway. Officer i/c armed guard which returned to Glasgow yester day from France reports that the crew of Norwegian ship GYDA were communistically inclined and declared the wish to return to Norway to fight. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 1629/4)

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS. 11.5.40.
Saturday.

China.

FALMOUTH
CERES
COLOMBO

Once it has been confirmed that German Merchant ships in Netherlands East Indies have been seized by Dutch East Indies Authorities intend to withdraw all patrols off Netherlands East Indies, send H.M.S. CERES and H.M.S. COLOMBO to Australia and HMS FALMOUTH to Colombo.
(C. in C. China 0204Z/11)

Your 0204/11. Concur with sailing of FALMOUTH for Colombo. Until, however, the whole position of the Netherlands East Indies has been cleared up, it is considered preferable to retain CERES and COLOMBO.
The Australian Commonwealth Naval Board are being requested to spare these ships for a further short period.
(D.O.D.(F) 1934/11 to C. in C. China)

Operations - Narvik.

HUNTER Survivors

Swedish Foreign Office confirmed HUNTER survivors will be released rather than interned because Germans originally freed them at Narvik. Press A.S.D. Stockholm. 1758/6.

Convoys - Norway
F.S.3.

Arrived 1600/6. (F.O.,Narvik, 1911/7).

A I R

Enemy Air Activity

Precautions, depth charges.

Consider depth charges in A/A cruisers a considerable danger in present circumstances owing to possibility of their being hit by high velocity splinters. Propose they should be disembarked. (CARLISLE, 1120/6)

Destroyers' A/A Armaments.

Lessons learned from enemy air attacks during last six weeks. Tendency to attack vessels with weaker A/A armaments. New dive-bombing technique. Enemy aware of limitations of A/A armaments in destroyers. Propose strengthening, also R.A.F. support in naval operations. (C. in C. H.F. 1001/6, R.A.D's 2330/5, Home Fleet War Diary. T.S.D. 4587/40).

Casualties and Defects.

LILY (Danish).

Missing. No information since 25/4 when she left Kirkwall for Preston. Armed Guard on board (N.O.I.C.Kirkwall 1820/6).

East Indies.

Air Forces.

Re retention of coastal reconnaissance and seaward striking air forces in India in event of war with Italy, pointing out that Italy has in Red Sea 6 S/ms with 8000 miles surface endurance and 2 with 4000; also several protected minelayers; he cannot guarantee getting information if they reach Indian waters. He agrees his a/c's must, however, be released if urgently required elsewhere for action operations. (C. in C. E.I.0816 Z/6, 0727 Z/7, 1707 Z/7).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

S/m's attacked.

0950 By JUNIPER. 58. 17. N., 2°30' W.
Considered non-sub. M. 09854/40.

War diary. 11.5.40.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Low Countries

Demolition parties were landed last night 10/11 May at Antwerp, Flushing, Hook of Holland and Ymuiden by BRILLIANT, VERITY, WILD SWAN and WHITSHED respectively. WHITSHED was bombed and had some casualties; minor damage was caused to the destroyer and her remaining ammunition is flooded, but she reports having brought down one or possibly 2 aircraft. She states that the Dutch arrangements for demolition are well thought out.

PRINCESS VICTORIA laid mines off Ymuiden last night, escorted by ESK, EXPRESS and INTREPID.

Blockships are being held in readiness to proceed to Ostend and Zeebrugge. The Germans have laid magnetic mines in both these ports, and both are closed.

BIRMINGHAM and 3 destroyers are returning to the Humber from the Dutch coast. HYPERION and HAVOC have been detached to assist the Dutch in engaging German forces at Waalhaven aerodrome near Rotterdam. WILD SWAN and WYVERN are also assisting.

C.S.2 in GALATEA with ARETHUSA, KEITH and BOREAS escorted 2 merchant ships with bullion, for Southend, which left Ymuiden at 0220/11.

8 destroyers from the Western Approaches and 4 from Rosyth are being placed under the orders of C. in C. Nore.

British and French submarines are concentrated off the Dutch coast. German submarines have been reported off Terschelling.

The Military Mission disembarked at Flushing.

It is reported that the enemy are trying to get mechanised units into ships at Stavoren (east of Zuyder Zee) with the apparent intention of landing in neighbourhood of Amsterdam.

The Germans continued to drop parachute troops in considerable numbers, also to land troops at aerodromes temporarily occupied. CODRINGTON and Dutch S.S. IRIS were unsuccessfully bombed off Hook, and Dutch S.S. PRINS WILLEN VAN ORANJE was hit off Flushing.

British and Allied subjects, women, children are being evacuated from Scheveningen in trawlers, escorted by HEREWARD. Arrangements have been made for evacuation from Ostend, if necessary.

Various Dutch warships are being sent to the U.K.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Hook of Holland - Operation Harpoon

Report on this operation by Major B.G.B. Mitchell, R.M., in command. Force consisted of 200 men from Chatham Division. Embarked at Dover in VERITY and VENOMOUS p.m. 11/5, sailed at about 0015/12, arrived Hook, 0515/12. Withdrawn, 1245/14, in MALCOLM, and arrived Dover at 2340 and Chatham at 0410/15. (Adjutant-General, R.M., No. P.P. 1947, dated 18/5/40).

Ymuiden
Amsterdam

All demolitions carried out. South Channel and Main Entrance blocked, but both might be passed by Light Craft in fine weather. (V.A. Dover 2022/15 to Adty.)

Flushing

Two M.T.B.'s to be sent to Flushing to assist French (D.O.D.(H) 1220/15 to C-in-C Nore).

France

Dinant reported fallen. In Antwerp Area fortified zone now held entirely by Belgians. (Needham Mission 0722/15)

Air.

PRINCESS IRENE

Bombed by enemy a/c 1800-1900/15 (B. of T. Form A.A.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Dutch East Indies

French Admiralty signal, for information, that good source states Japanese contemplate sending warships and disembarking in certain Dutch East Indies ports. It would be stated occupation temporary and in order to maintain status quo. Real intention would be to obtain control over exchange to stop essential trade being reserved entirely for Allies. Report states Japanese determined even to face American Navy. Japanese Govt. would make point of view known during meeting of Japanese Parliament and occupation could take place within eight days of Parliament meeting. Batavia not informed. (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 0070/15)

WAR DIARY. HOME COMMANDS 16.5.40.
Thursday

Operations

Narvik Area.

I am satisfied that enemy landing at Kirkenes would meet with sufficient resistance to enable me to intervene, even if I were at Tromso when I heard the news. If enemy landing in force is contemplated consider it would be made much further to westward. Porsanger Fjord likely. This would deny to us use of only aerodrome at present suitable for Hurricanes and is defended by only 30mtroops. For examination of landing places and also for A/S screening destroyers are essential; two seriously required. (F.O. Narvik 2230/16).

Operation C.B.X.2

Report of operation by INTREPID on 16/5 (M.09689/40).

A I R.

PINEWOOD — British 2466 tons. Bombed and machine-gunned at 2240 at 50°42'N. 00°42' E. Damaged by M.G.bullets. No casualties. (I.D. Form A.A.)

FULHAM 111 — British 1594 tons. Machine-gunned at 2240 three miles S.W. of Royal Sovereign L.V. No damage. (I.D.Form A.A.)

Enemy Air Activity

PRINCESS IRENE — Dutch. Report on effect of bomb explosion and passage to Hull. (I.D. Form A/S, I.D. 7327).

EMMA Swedish. — Bombed 0540/16 4 miles West of Wandelaar L/V. No damage.(I.D.Form A.A.)

KINGSBURY. — British 4898 tons. Machine-gunned by a/c. 1020/16. One killed and 3 injured. Ship damaged, but remained seaworthy and proceeded. (Shipping Casualties 165603).

WAR DIARY | FOREIGN STATIONS | 16.5.40. Thursday

America & West Indies.

Dispositions. To be assumed in event of war against Italy in near future. (C. in C.A.W. 11425/16).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

A/C of 220 Squadron Attacked S/m. 200 miles N.W. Horn's Reef. Four bombs dropped U-boat incidents No.254.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Helder

M.T.B's — 3 M.T.B's expected to arrive Ymuiden on passage to Amsterdam 2030/12 (C. in C., Nore, 1641/12 to GRIFFIN, Capt. D(1), Adty. Hyperion).

Measures to be concerted with Dutch — Destroyer to be sent with despatch to Helder to discuss with Dutch possibility of cooperation in Zuyder Zee. Report if M.T.B's can be used (C. in C., Nore, 1001/12).

GRIFFIN — Is short of fuel and has been ordered to return to Bundaberg as soon as your 1001/12 is complied with. (Capt. D.1 1138/12).

Germans have taken N.E. part of Zuyder Zee Barrier Dyke up to locks. If aircraft cannot be sent Marine-staff urgently request anti-aircraft machine guns with personnel to be sent to Helder soon as possible. (2x2, 1630/12).

Request for M.T.B's — Flushing heavily bombed by planes. Island of Walcheren strongly held by French forces. French troops are beyond Antwerp and Antwerp is strongly held. Dutch ask urgently that M.T.B's of not more than seven feet draught be sent to the Helder to operate in Zuider Zee. (French Adty., 1043/12)(D.D.I.C. 1203/12)

Commander Peterson has arrived Flushing. (KIMBERLEY, 1100/12).

Ad. Furstner asks for early provision of craft to operate against imminent German thrust Zuider Zee. Maximum draught seven feet. KINGFISHER class appears suitable. M.T.B's very useful. French being also asked to provide. M.T.B's should proceed Ymuiden, other types Texel. 0815. (N.A., Hague, 1230/12). Passed to V.A., Dover, 1355/12).

GRIFFIN — To proceed immediately if possible and attack Germans crossing the Long Dam across Zuider Zee, chart 2322. (C. in C., Nore, 1930/12). Withdraw daylight if attacks ....

War Diary

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Iceland. Operation Fork.

N.O.I.C. Iceland. — Report on assuming charge etc. 17-21/5/40. M01262/40.

Air

FIRTH FISHER sunk. — Bombed and sunk in Boulogne Harbour, 7 of crew missing. Ship bombed armed ships and sank in 30 seconds. Survivors picked up by S.S. SPARTA. No assistance from French. (Interview with Master - no number)

MAVIS. — Bombed 20/5 off Calais. Interview with Chief Officer. (T.D. Shipping Casualties Section, 23 May 1940).

HUBBA STONE. — British, 872 tons, bombed alongside pier at Dieppe 0830/21, believed sunk (settling when abandoned). Chief Engineer, 1 seaman and 1 fireman missing: 3 slightly wounded. Crew of 12, (11 British, 1 Norse) 9 arrived Southampton from Havre (1D Form A.A.) Report of loss M. 010077/40.

LORMONT. — Contraband control guardship. Attacked 2338/21 by enemy a/c. Slight damage (M.010196/40)

FREIDIG. — Norwegian attacked by a/c 11 miles E. Orfordness 2330/21. Vessel damaged, but not abandoned. No hits but near misses (Attacks on M/VS by a/c)

BELGRAVIAN. — British 3136 tons, Attacked by a/c 1800/21 while waiting for pilot outside Boulogne. Lewis gun fired. Bren gun jammed Machine-gunned, hit by bullets. 3rd Engineer injured. (Attacks on M/Vs by a/C)

BAWTRY — Bombed and sunk at Dunkirk 21/5. Interview with Master. (T.D. Shipping Casualties section, 23 May 1940).

War Diary

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Understand 8 British battalions leaving Bombay about 2/6 for U.K. in convoy of 8 ships. If situation not improved intend to route by Cape. 2 A.M.C's and KENT can be made available for escort, but this would leave only 1 British and 1 French AMC for protection of Allied Shipping and other duties in Indian Ocean (C. in C. E113147/21)

(I) Re emergency convoys which might be required during critical period or very early stages of war to clear Aden or Suez of shipping, see my 1427/19 and 1429/19.
(II) If no convoys are run until after CARLISLE, sloops and destroyer flotilla have arrived GLOUCESTER, LEANDER can be better spared but only 1 cruiser will be available for protection of any allied shipping and rounding up of any Italian ships which may be in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden when war with Italy breaks out. The second cruiser must be retained on Perim patrol (C. in C. E 1 10297/21)

Your 0727(?)/19 and 1421/19 and Admiralty 0035/18. It is not intended to send any further destroyers to Red Sea other than 29th Division destroyers (C. in C. Med.1607/21 to C. in C. E1)

America and West Indies.

In event of H.M. ships being ordered to commence hostilities against Italy Canadian Government have approved this order being immediately applicable to H.M.C. ships. (C.N.S. of Canada 1203/21)

War Diary

12.5.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Dutch Coast (General)

Troops Requested

Ref. telegram 41 of May 11. Sending of troops additional to those suggested in my telegram of May 11 to Ymuiden is strongly recommended by Military Attache, proposes they be send to Hook of Holland to operate between there and Hague. H.M. Minister stresses importance of our doing all possible to assist in safeguarding the Hague. (N.A., Hague, 0240/12).

Cruisers

If enemy cruisers move towards Holland I should be glad to have strong cruiser reinforcements. (C. in C., Nore, 0951/12).

Your 0951/12. MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD and YORK are at Rosyth at two hours notice at your disposal. MANCHESTER is not degaussed but arrangements have been made to fit temporary D.G. if ship is placed at four hours' notice. (C. in C., H.F., 1037/12).

Please place MANCHESTER at 4 hours' notice and continue work of degaussing. (C. in C., Nore, 1217/12).

BIRMINGHAM, etc., Orders

Remain in harbour at half-hour's notice. Sail without further orders if you hear definite news of German surface warships moving towards Dutch coast. (C. in C., Nore, to BIRMINGHAM, C.S.2, and destroyers, 0855/12).

If our destroyers harass enemy the German Army may demand naval help. It is suggested that additional magnetic mines in entrance to German harbours, would be beneficial. (C. in C., Nore, 1012/12).

MOHAWK
JANUS

Proceed towards Scheveningen, Capt. D.1 is to call on you if he needs further support. If not carry out A/S search towards Ymuiden and return to Humber if air attack too heavy (C. in C., Nore, 0401/12).

MALCOLM
WIVERN

Maldolm return to harbour, WIVERN remain on patrol. (V.A.Dover, 0755/12).

War Diary

28.5.40.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Submarines	Reported by French P.V. ENSEIGNE HENRI 42° 30'N, 10° 55'W at 0742/28. By Fighter a/c sighted 2 s/m's 10 m. N.W. Dunkirk at about 1200/28. 3 s/m's painted green reported off Dunmore Head. Dingle Bay 1609/28.	U-boat Incidents No. 267
Submarines attacked WORCESTER	Attacked contact 150° West Hinder Lt. Buoy 1609/28. Wooden wreckage but no oil.	U-boat Incidents No. 267

War Diary

29.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk.

Bombing of beaches and pier Dunkirk has now commenced without evident opposition from fighters. If they hit pier embarkation will become very slow. Beaches between Dunkirk and La Paune are covered with troops congregated in large masses. Very slow embarkation taking place from Eastern beach. French Authorities at Dunkirk feel strongly they are defending Dunkirk for us to evacuate, which is largely true. Perimeter must be strongly held, food and water issued and bombing of Dunkirk pier prevented. There is no other alternative to take off more than a fifth of men now on beach before they are bombed continously. (S.W.O.Dunkirk 1358/29).

Air.

CLAN MACALISTER. British 6787 tons. bombed and sank off Dunkirk. 18 of crew missing. 16 out of 23 Survivors in hospital. (War Cabinet, Chief of Staffs Committee - Weekly Resume No. 40)

FENELLA. British 2376 tons. Bombed and sunk off Dunkirk. 10 survivors (War Cabinet, Chief of Staffs Committee - Weekly Resume No. 40)

ORINA. Attacked by enemy a/c's near Dunkirk and sunk. 8 lives lost, 41 saved. (Board of Trades).

Enemy Intelligence.

Cruiser damaged. Yugoslavia General Staff informs me (a) Two new S/M's launched at Hamburg 29/5 and immediately sent to sea. (b) Transport GNEISENAU 1800 tons sunk by British off Frisian Islands, 1200 troops and 40 tanks on board, very few men saved. German transport BUENOS AIRES, 9000 tons, sunk in Norwegian waters. (c) Cruiser VOLN class 2300 Hamburg badly damaged May 29. (N.A.Belgrade, 1255/11/6)

U-boat Campaign & Mining.

Ships attacked.

MARIE JOSE. Master of British ELLAROY reports that at 0445/29/5 in position 42°32'N., 09°11'W., he witnessed submarine shelling merchant vessel of about 5,000 tons. 3rd or 4th shot scored hit and M.V. was soon in flames. ELLAROY has no wireless or gun. Master reports no French patrol vessels in vicinity. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff. 1200/3/6).

War Diary

13.5.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

German Ships

In view of renewed reports of intention of German merchant vessels to proceed Vladivostock I intend for next 3 or 4 weeks to keep one armed merchant cruiser off east coast of Japan. (C. in C., China, 0359 z/13)

East Indies

U S S

Asking for air escort (C in C., E.I. 1332 Z/13)

America & West Indies.

Dispositions

Following dispositions are to be assumed as soon as convenient. CARADOC+ to remain at Curacao for the present. DUNDEE to operate in CURACAO area as required by CARADOC, then resume duty West Indies Oil Protective Force. DESPATCH to patrol approach to Colon. H.M.C.S. FRASER as required by Flag or SeniorOfficer Jamaica Force. (C in C., A.W.I. 1250/13

TELENA — Chief Officer reports attack by S/m 5 miles W.S.W. Salvora I.(Arosa Bay). Two shells hit, ship on fire and abandoned. Panic among Chinese crew. 2 officers missing, 1 killed, 5 crew killed and 9 missing (N.I.D.) 2799/40. Position of vessel in Spanish law.(M.01208/40).

Ships attacked TELENA. — Torpedoed at 0600 51°22' N. 20°16' E. U-boat incidents report No.267.

S/ms reported. — By BLYSKAWICA sighting periscope 1315/29 51°21' W 2°16' E. — U-boat incidents No.267

S/m.attacked. — By VEGA 51°22'W, 2°40' E. 0707,29. — U-boat incident 267.

War Diary

12.5.1940
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Command

ANHALT — (5870 tons) ordered to proceed to Hamburg to discharge, load and for repairs (ANHALT was in collision off Hants

HOHENHORN — (not listed at Lloyds) ordered to proceed to Station. 12/5 (IC0449/40)

SIMON VON UTRECHT — (4949 tons) ordered 12/5 to load at Oxelosund and not Gefle (IC 0441/40)

Mediterranean

INGO — (2300 tons) Press report arrived 12/5 at Dubrovink laden with boxite destined for Germany. Leaves 14/5 for Trieste.

HOME COMMANDS

Iceland

Candadian Govt. will despatch approx. 1,000 troops to Iceland as soon as possible. Can a special ship be provided for purpose? If not suggest one ship arranged for T.C.5. should transport. Troops for Iceland can be made ready to sail by 10/6. (N.S.H.Ottawa 1753/28)

Air

KELVIN — Report of engagement with enemy a/c 1117/28. M. 010873/40

Casualties and Defects

OCEAN REWARD
ISLE OF THANET
In collision — ISLE OF THANET (Hospital Carrier) in collision with OCEAN REWARD (Examination Vessel) off Dover Harbour. OCEAN REWARD sunk 8 lives lost. ISLE OF THANET badly damaged. (Shipping Casualties 105657)

S.S. CARARE — Mined 0930/28 off the Foreland. Sank later in approx. 51° 17'30"N, 3° 45' 0"W. H.M.Y. RHODORA saved 86 and 2 dead. Survivors included about 10 women and 5 children. Fast R.A.F. boat landed 4 seriously injured. H.M.T. CAMBRIDGESHIRE landed 2 and 4 dead (2 females). (Reports of C.O. RHODORA and CAMBRIDGESHIRE and Unit Comdr. CAMBRIDGESHIRE)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North America and West Indies

1900 G.M.T. — British ship DANYBRYN reports sighting periscope and wake in 019° 25'N, 108° 23'W. Seen again at 019° 45'N, 108° 56'W and opened fire. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1042/3 to C-in-C N.A.&.W.I.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

THURINGIA — Report of loss by mining (C.A.P. Dover) 17011339/40

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

10.5.40. Friday.

South Atlantic.

WINDHUK. At Santos, Brazil, has been re-attached.

Montevideo reports 1210/10 a German shipping agent expected a German ship there on 10/5. (C. in C. S.A. 1750/10). Only ship known to be at large is WINNETOU, which left Las Palmas 9/4 and not since reported. (I.C.0447/40).

Mediterranean.

ARKADIA. Arrived Braila 9/5 (GALATA 1034/10)

Foreign Stations.

The following German merchant ships were in Dutch Colonial Ports on May 10:-

Dutch East Indies.

Padang.	BITTERFELD	7657
	FRANKEN	7789
	RHEINLAND	6622
	SONECK	2191
	WUPPERTAL	6737
Sabang.	LINDENFELS	8457
	MONI RICKMERS	5272
	SOPHIE RICKMERS	7033
	WASGENWALD	4990
	WERDENFELS	6318
Batavia.	NORDMARK	7750
	RENDSBURG	6200
	VOGTLAND	6608
Tjilitjap	STASSFURT	7395
Surabaya.	CASSEL	6047
	ESSEN	5158
	NAUMBERG	5878
Macassar.	SCHEER	8298
Menado.	FRIDERUN	2464

Dutch West Indies:-

Aruba	ANTILLA	4406
Curacao.	ALEMANIA	1383

SECRET

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING. 1.5.40
Wednesday

Ships attacked. Fate of Asdic Gear.

When Asdic fitted ships have been lost the senior survivor on landing should at once be interviewed by Flag or Naval Officer in Charge to ascertain whether it is certain that steps have been taken to prevent the Asdic gear particularly the dome falling into the enemy's hands. Reports should be signalled at once to Admiralty. D.A/S.W.1751/1.

ubmarines Reported.

Estimated dispositions:- Indications that a U-boat may be cruising within a radius of about 20 miles between North and East and another within about the same distance between North and West of Muckle Flugga.

3 U-boats now reported to be in the approaches to Trondheim.

No indications of any other changes. (I.C.0437/40) D.D.I.C.1226/1).

1630 In mouth of Loch Eribol 58°36' N, 6° 38'W (D.4 report) A.C.C.S.1850/1

1500 - 1515 By A/C. B Q Z S 2613 (A/C 254 Sqdn.1515/1) U.25 partly submerged, preparing to attack destroyer, sighted from 15 miles and attacked with machine guns forcing him to submerge at 1500 hours. Patrolled area until 1556. (Donibristle,1810/1) WANDERER hunting (WANDERER 1605/1).

1025 D.F., B.F.N.D.1535

1215 Sighted by French merchant vessel, 49°43' N.,06°16' W.(C.in C.W.A. 1303/1 1324/1). (H.Q.C.C.1815/1).

1300 Reported off Kabelvag West Fiord,68° 11' N, 14° 29' E. on surface. (PENELOPE 2254/1)

1355 By a/c, 61°41' N., 1°26' E, 054° Muckle Flugga 85',course 150°.

1021 Position approximate, 54° 15' N., 5° 35' E.

1039 Seen by a/c, 53° 50' N., 6° 24' E., N.W.off Borkum,course 90°.

Submarines Attacked.

1300 By WAKEFUL, 49° 34'N., 06° 08' W. doubtful contact,abandoned after dropping 1 D/C (WAKEFUL 1409/1)

1500 Attacked by a/c with machine guns, 61°20' N., 0° 18' E., 053° Muckle Flugga 48' (I.C.0438/40)

War Diary

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report.

Narvik Area

F.O., Narvik, reports that large scale administrative planning will be necessary before either harbour or town can be of any value to us. There are about 18 wrecks in Narvik harbour. Harstad can handle three ships at a time up to 8,000 tons, but it is still vulnerable to submarine attacks. There is safe anchorage at Skaanland, and small ships can be handled at Ballangen, but accomodation ashore at both these places is very limited. He proposes that all aircraft based at Skaanland on floats, and that a depot-ship be sent, pending facilities ashore.

ARK ROYAL is to embark aircraft at once for Narvik GLORIOUS and FURIOUS are also to transport fighter aircraft to Bardu Foss, in this area.

JANUS refuelled at Skelfjord 2/5, and returned to Mosjoen, where she landed her troops, approx. 128 men, without opposition and apparently unobserved about midnight 2/3rd May.

Aandalsnes

Ships carrying the evacuated troops from Aandalsnes arrived at Scapa. 2,145 men, including wounded, were embarked. MANCHESTER has 8 German prisoners among her passengers, and AUCKLAND Brigadiers Hogg and Hopwood, with the rearguard.

Namsos Area

Fog in the Namsos area continued to hamper operations. Captain (D) 5 in KELLY endeavoured to enter during the early hours of 2/5 without success. Later when the fog lifted KELLY and destroyers entered the Fiord, where they were bombed at 1100. MAORI sustained superficial damage from splinters, and suffered 3 killed and 20 wounded.

G.O.C., Maurice, stated that the evacuation could not be completed in one night, and that air support would be essential to-morrow, 3/5. On receiving information that no air support could be provided, it was decided to attempt the whole evacuation in one night, 2/3 May.

War Diary

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report (Continued)

British Air Activity

All normal patrols were flown during the day. Bomber Command raids at night appear to have been successful.

A German passenger ship of about 10,000 tons believed to be a transport was attacked off the River Ems by a Hudson on the Dutch patrol, and later by other aircraft.

3 ships, brilliantly lit and anchored close in shore to the West of Norderney, were observed at 2200/2.

Bomber Command programme for the night, 2/3:-
6 aircraft Rye (60 miles S. of Aalborg) aerodrome at dusk.
12 aircraft Rye (60 miles S. of Aalborg) later.
6 aircraft Security Patrols.
6 aircraft to Stavanger.
6 aircraft to Fornebo.
26 aircraft for special duty.

Bombs were seen to fall on the aerodrome at Rye, setting fire to two aircraft. The flash of an explosion in the aerodrome was also observed. No enemy aircraft were encountered.

Enemy Air Activity

There was remarkably little activity on the part of enemy aircraft on 2/5 compared with the daily events of the past few weeks. The usual meteorological flight was carried out in the directionofthe Shetlands, returning down the Norwegian Coast.

A few H.M. ships operating off Norway reported sighting enemy aircraft which shadowed them, but this activity appeared to be much less noticeable than usual.

The only attack by enemy bombers was that made at 1100 on KELLY and MAORI at Namsos; the latter destroyer suffered superficial damage from splinters and a few casualties. Later in the day enemy aircraft were again shadowing operations at Namsos.

At least 12 aircraft are known to have been operating off Ostend during the night 2/3rd, probably laying mines.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report (Continued).

British Submarine Activity

NARWHAL reports having attacked a convoy in the Kattegat with 4 torpedoes on 1/5. One possible hit. She has completed her mining operations and is now clear of Kattegat, returning to base.

TRIDENT attacked a northbound supply ship 2/5, the LANGUERNUEN, with torpedo and gunfire, driving her ashore, a total loss. Subsequent attacks by depth charges left TRIDENT undamaged.

Miscellaneous

Attempts to save the four men in the submarine UNITY were abandoned.

4 magnetic mines were exploded in the Humber area, and one in Tees Bay. Sunderland and Tyne are now open, subject to local routine instructions. Humber, Blyth, Dunkirk and Calais are closed.

Movements

Scapa Arrivals

French BRESTOIS, BOULLONNAIS, with SAUMUR and AMIENSOIS 1245.

ICARUS, WHITETHORN and GUNVAR MAERSK 1535.

French MILAN, CHEVALIER PAUL, TARTU, with D'JEURRE and PRESIDENT DOUMER 1640.

JASON, GLEANER and French FOUDROYANT with REINA DEL PACIFICO, DUCHESS of ATHOLL, SOBIESKI, LANCASTRIA, BATORY 1700.
(A.C.O.S., 1800/2).

Submarines Psoitions 0600/3. (D.C., 2153/2).

War Diary

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Policy - Narvik.

Headquarters of 3 services and maintenance organizations in Narvik area are subject to difficulty of deciding with present information. It is understood 30,000 men may be sent and large camp organizations will have to be built. Role of this force might be (i) to occupy Gabliware Ore field. (ii) Protect Northern Norway against aggression (iii) Operate against enemy in middle and Southern Norway.

(i) May be ruled out for a long time to come, as Railway, only practicable line of communication and Narvik Harbour must take long time to repair and it may be anticipated that before this is effected enemy will capture Ore field from Baltic or will destroy Railway in Sweden.

(ii) Would require no addition to the present force with existing Military Headquarters and Naval Base Staff.

(iii) Would in my opinion require a joint staff to plan the advance and landing and the appointment of a General Officer to command troops in Scandinavia.

(F.O., Narvik, 2314/2).

War Diary

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

NARVIK

Lofoten Is. 2 flying boats arriving Hardstadt daylight 4/5 and 5/5 for aerodrome reconnaissance in area of Bodo and Lofoten Islands. (Air Min. to Adty. 1330/2). Orders to flying boats. (H.Q., C.C., 1800/2). (D.O.D.(H) to F.O. Narvik, 2019/2).

DEVON CITY — To sail for Harstad now by inner route with local pilot. (F.O., Narvik to GLASGOW, 1456/2).

Fighter Sqdn. Hurricane Sqdn. to be trnasported to Narvik between 20/5 and 15/6. (Air Min. to Adty. 1530/2. Cancel my 1530/2. (Air Min., 1955/2).

Destroyers Asking to expedite return of destroyer escorts from Narvik area as much as possible, owing to commitments and no margin. (C. in C., H.F., 2013/2).

Floatplane Organisation Adty. 2015/1. Propose all aircraft be based at Skaanland on floats and depot-ship be sent until shore facilities are available. (F.O., Narvik, 2213/2).

U-boat Escape Gear German submarine escape apparatus No. U.64 was recovered in BODEN on 30/4 (F.O., Narvik, 2302/2).

Rupert Force Further base personnel absolutely essential (Rupert Forces to W.O., no T.O.O., recd. 1915/2).

Landings Hoped all news of renewed landings in Norway will be withheld until after it is certain that the Germans have discovered they have taken place. (C. in C., H.F., 2253/2).

War Diary

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

NAMSOS

Weather — My 1934/1. Visibility at Kya now one cable. If as appears likely these conditions continue it will not be practicable for ships to reach Namsos tonight Thursday. (C.S.1, 0040/2).

War Office to Maurice — Your cypher 024 2/5. Adty. are instructing C.S. 1 to get in touch. He can if visibility permits lift your whole force either altogether tonight 2/3, or in 2 nights. Shipping available either plan. Decision left to you in consultation C.S.1, but it may not be possible for naval officer conversant with detailed plan to arrive Namsos before 2000 hours. Adty. would much prefer embarkation in one night if that is practicable. Danger and difficulty of your situation fully understood. Every one doing damnedest to help you over final fence and enable you successfully to extricate your force. All possibile being doen to provide air protection (Passed to Maurice from W.O., by D.O.D.(H) /2).

De Wiart reports (1000/2) situation getting serious and considers it essential to make contact with C.S. 20 or officer conversant with detached plan as soon as possible. (D.O.D.(H) to C.S. 1, C.S. 20. /2).

Destroyers — To refuel from cruisers if fog persists as relief cannot be sent yet. (C. in C., H.F., 1016/2 to F.O.C., 1 C.S.).

Evacuation — On completion of operations Klaxon 1 and 2 CARLISLE is to proceed to Skjel Fiord unless she has troops on board. (C. in C., H.F., 1255/2).

Dispositions — My 1934/1 and 0040/2. Flotilla reformed. Weather clear in position QFJV 2517. Am being shadowed. Norwegian T.B. GRIB in company. Capt. (D) with 3 destroyers hiding in fog off entrance to Fiord, visibility under one cable. 5 trawlers surviving in Fiord. Intend confirming with Klaxon 1 and 2 tonight if visibility permits. (C.S. 1, 0736/2).

War Diary

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (continued)

NAMSOS

Trawlers — Your 0135/2. Presume you have left some ships to escort A/S trawlers (C. in C., H.F., to C.S. 18, 0936/2).

Your 0936. No, they sailed independently soon after 2200/1 and I doubt if they could now be concentrated. (C.S. 18, 1025/2).

Destroyers — If you are returning to base, any destroyers in excess of 8 from your screen are to proceed to RJCU 1242 to join SOUTHAMPTON due there 1700/3. They should proceed to Sullom Voe first to refuel if necessary. (C. in C., H.F. 0925/2 to V.A.A.).

DIANA — Expect to arrive Tromso 1100 B.S.T. 3/5. Norwegian C in C., General Ruge and staff on board. (DIANA 1635/2).

Evacuation must be completed tonight. Request YORK embark G.O.C. and 3 staff. Your plan to stand. (F.O. 20 C.S. to F.O.I.C.S 2038/2).

Cannot evacuate whole force one night. Not question of shipping but hours of darkness. Absolutely essential air protection tomorrow in view of broadcast Prime Minister's speech. (Maurice to War Office, passed C. in C., H.F. by D.C., 2050/2).

Repeat no chance of air support tomorrow Friday. Every endeavour should therefore be made in consultation C.S.1 to move whole force tonight. (War Office to Mauice, passed C. in C., H.F. and C.S.1 by D.C., 2143/2).

Oerlikon Battery — "B" Oerlikon Battery embarked complete in BIRMINGHAM. (BIRMINGHAM, 2208/2).

Royal Marines — Party embarked complete in BIRMINGHAM except 3 ratings presumed entered in another ship. (BIRMINGHAM, 2207/2).

Norwegian Ships — 3 loaded pulp waiting escort to 50 miles off coast, 2 at Salsbruket, one at Lansles. (Maurice, 1648/2 to Adty. Passed to C. in C., H.F. 2201/2).

ST GORAN sunk — (see Casualties).

War Diary

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (continued)

MOSJOEN, NO.

Landing Party Destination not reached owing to fog. Intend to proceed Skjel Fiord to oil when fog lifts and endeavour to land auxiliary vessel. Please confirm from French General at Namsos if this operation is to continue. (JANUS, 0320/2).

Your 0320. Operation is to continue (D.C., 0633/2).

Disembarkation of personnel for Narvik area from ROYAL ULSTERMAN and landing of stores at Mosjoen. (C. in C. H.F. 1144/2, 1522/2). Oil reserve in oiler ALDERSDALE. (PEMBROKE, 1806/2).

ULSTER PRINCE to embark one company of 300 men and about 100 tons of stores for Mosjoen. ROYAL SCOTSMAN to embark 2 companies 600 men and 200 tons stores for Bodo. (D.O.D.(H) 1809/2).

H.Q. Scissors From Gen. Massey for O.C., No.1 Independent Co. in ROYAL ULSTERMAN:- H.Q. Scissors should be established Bodo 7/5 and will open communication with you by civil telegraph to Mo, addressed to you by your surname. (D. of P. to MOHAWK, 2011/2).

Re fuelling ROYAL ULSTERMAN (Diesel engines) (C. in C. H.F. 1144/2).

War Diary

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (continued)

AANDALSNES, AALESUND, MOLDE.

Evacuation

Am leaving AUCKLAND to embark final covering party with orders to sail not later than 0230. All remaining troops embarked. No ships required for Thursday night as Germans will be in Aandalsnes at any time now. General Paget is in MANCHESTER. DIANA has sailed for Tromso with Norwegian C. in C. and 30 staff officers. (F.O. 18 C.S. 0135/2).

From General Paget to Troops. Enemy made contact 1500/30. Successfully held off till dark assisted by 4 Norwegian guns, first artillery support we have had. Forces got away about 2200 by train and lorries. Train wrecked en route and troops marched last 17 miles to Velma. Enemy made contact again 1730/1 but were held off till 2130, when forces withdrew to Aandalsnes and embarked. Cannot yet give strength of forces embarked. Though tired troops still in very good heart. (F.O. 18 C.S., 1130/2).

SOMALI with Primrose personnel, route. (Capt.(D)6, 0200/2).

Your 0345/2 and 0820/2. Position. All rear guard embarked including Brig. Hopwood. Expect arrive Scapa 0900/3. (AUCKLAND to 18 C.S., 1203/2).

Total number evacuated from Aandalsnes night of 1/5-2/5 approx. 2150 including wounded. MANCHESTER has 8 German prisoners. (C.S. 18, 1429 /2).

War Diary

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

CASABIANCA — Patrol report, April 25-28, dived through Selbjorn Fird into Bjorne Fiord. (V.A.S., 1842/2)

CLYDE — To attack enemy transports and warships, also merchant ships in vicinity of F.o Havet. (R.A.(S) 1711/2).

ORPHEE — To return to base (R.A.S., 0831/2).

SFAX — Patrol report from 21/4 (V.A.S, 1247/2).

TRIDENT — Attacked a German supply ship with torpedo and gunfire at Languennen, near Bergen and drove her ashore, where she is a total loss.

NARWHAL — Possible hit by torpedo on ships in convoy attacked in the Kattegat on 1/5.

Norwegian Units

Aircraft off Scotland — W/T intercept, 2 Norwegian seaplanes making for Peterhead, asking for escort. (Scapa W/T 0310/2).

SLEIPNER — Capt. E. Ullring, destroyer SLEIPNER, wishes to offer his services to Admiralty in any capacity in which they would like to use him while his ship is refitting at Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1117/2).

C. in C. — Expect arrive Tromso 1100 B.S.T. 3/5 Norwegian C. in C., General Ruge and staff are on board. (DIANA 1635/2).

C. in C. Navy — Admiral Deisan is on board ECHO, part of convoy FP3 Wishes to get to Tromso. What is left of Norwegian Navy and Merchantile Marine has orders from him wither to make its way north or to Uik. (C. in C., H.F. to F.O., Narvik, 1653/2).

War Diary

2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norwegian Units (continued)

Norwegian Ship NIDARLAND — Arrived Kirkwall today. Left Bergen 9/4 after the arrival of the Germans and sheltered off Floso and then Ekefjord until 30/4 on instructions of Capt. Sjon, an officer at the military post at Maaloy on Nordjord. (V.A.N.P., 2230/2).

By Boat from Norway — 4 Norwegian naval ratings from the A.A. patrol ship FIREN, captured by Germans, reached Peterhead in an open boat from Slekke Fiord, near Stavanger, between 29/4 and 2/5. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1750/2).

Convoys

F.P.3 — Position (C. in C., Rosyth, 0014/2).

War Diary. 2.5.40
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Fleet Air Arm. Movements to take place to equip ARK ROYAL on return to harbour.
(C. in C. H.F. 1951/2).

Harvik Bogo and Bordu Fogo. On arrival at Scapa, ARK ROYAL to complete with a/c and sail immediately for Narvik so as to give fighter protection until R.A.F. fighter aircraft can operate from Bordu-Foss. To enable R.A.F. fighter aircraft to operate at earliest possible date, both GLORIOUS and FURIOUS will be required to transport them to Narvik. Arrangements for flying on from Prestwick aerodrome.
Programme for A/A guns, etc. at Bordu-Foss.
Question of sending an A/A ship with R.D.F. is under consideration. Arrival of R.A.F. fighters is of paramount importance. Not possible to send any float planes until after this operation is complete. (1st S.L. 2010/2).
My 2010/2. Numbers of aircraft to be carried in FURIOUS and GLORIOUS, and details of F.A.A. squadrons to be disembarked to Campbeltown.
(D.H.A.D. 2012/2).

British Air Activity. Asking if can expect any air support today.
(F.O. 1 C.S. 0036/2).
None available other than carrier-borne.
(C. in C. H.F. 0415/2).
Regret carrier aircraft not available.
(V.A.(A) 0545/2).

Transport Attacked. A/C attacked large transport LSHU 4542.
(A/C 206 Sqdn., 0830/2).

Enemy's course 290°, speed 10 knots.
(A/C 206 Sqdn. 1010/2).

Reconnaissance Reports. (Hq. B.C. 0856/3).

Enemy ...

War Diary. 2.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Enemy Air Activity.

STELLA CAPELLA — Attacked 63°N., 5°33' E. (STELLA CAPELLA, 0730/2).

ARGYLSHIRE — Attacked 60 miles 270° Bud Bet, Norway. (0812/2).

KELLY — Bombed CKGD 3914. (1107/2).

C.S.20 — Shadowed, Nemsos. (C.S.20 1850/2).

GALATEA — 3 A/C, course approx. 000°, 3,000 feet, my position 320° Muckle Skerry 4 miles. (GALATEA 2120/2). Friendly fighters are in vicinity. (Scapa W/T 2127/2).

MAORI — Superficial damage from bomb splinters. 3 killed, 20 wounded. (Capt.(D) 5, 1205/2).

Between 1700 and 2359 hours 1/5/40, there was considerable activity of German transport (or troop carrying) aircraft, and reports of landings at Stavanger, Hamburg and Trondheim were received. About 2228 hours enemy aircraft were engaged in minelaying off the North-East Coast. As a point of interest out of to-day's(1/5) enemy activities, it may be mentioned that on no fewer than 15 occasions they reported back unsuccessful attacks upon our surface craft, and only three as successful. (Hq. Coastal Command 1745/2).

WAR DIARY.

SECRET.
2.5.40

HOME COMMANDS.

MINING.

EXPRESS
ESK
INTREPID

Will be sailed from Immingham for Scapa p.m.3/5 or a.m.4/5. Outfits each ship 60 fourteen A fifteen A units with flooders and anti-sweeping devices. At your disposal for operations A one two and three. Request you will issue operation orders. If more than one outfit required it can be supplied. (D.O.D.(H) to C.in C. H.F.0016/2).

Explosions in Tyne and Tees Area.

3 loud explosions 3 = 1/2 miles 120°. Sunderland at 0154 and 2 further explosions 2 miles E. Saltsier Rock at 0159, reported by No.13 Group. One heavy explosion accompanied by flash 1,000 yds. 080° from Hengh Light at 0401 reported by P.W.S.S. Hartlepool and confirmed by examination vessel Hartlepool. One loud explosion 8 miles S.E. of Tyne and another 2 miles N.E. of Saltsier Rock reported at 0421 by No.13 Group. All explosions so far unexplained and cannot be reconciled with any known position of ship. Investigations proceeding (C.in C. Rosyth 0443/2).

Trondheim.

Unconfirmed report on Aalesund radio that a controlled minefield has been laid off Trondheim from Brattora running 300 metres N. of Munkholmen to Hovringen. (I.C.,0439/40)

SHIPPING.

Convoys.

Situation 2090/2. (C.in C. W.A.,1257/2)

Positions (D.C. 1913/2).

HOME COMMANDS.

SHIPPING (Contd.)

Norwegian Ships.	3 loaded pulp waiting attempt to escape (Maurice, 1648/2).
Channel Services.	Folkestone - Ostend, suspended. (Press Association, 0115/3).
Navigation Lights.	Amendment of area in which dimmed navigation lights should be shown. (D.T.D.1323/2, 1150/3).
Danish Ships.	Instructions for action regarding ships and aircraft wearing Danish colours. Warships to be attacked at sight. Aircraft with Danish civil workings to be treated as enemy civil aircraft; with military markings found E. of 10° W. as enemy military aircraft. Merchant ships wearing Danish flags to be treated as enemy merchant ships, but in certain areas as enemy warships. (Hd. of M., 1931/2).

MISCELLANEOUS.

PELICAN	To be towed by BRIGAND from Lerwick to Rosyth WANDERER escorting. (R.A.(D) 0959/2).
Norwegian Seamen.	Arrangements to enter Norwegians of whale-catchers now arriving in England. (Hd. of M., to N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1505/2).
Suspicious Ships.	Admiralty 1724/30, report of suspicious ships by Master of LEADGATE. For 28/4 read 29/4. (Le Havre, 1140/2).

WAR DIARY. SECRET.
2.5.40.

HOME COMMANDS.

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

German Naval Activity.

Following aircraft reports were received:-

0830/2. 1 large merchant ship, 9' north of Borkum, bombed, no results observed.

1308/2. 1 merchant ship about 2,000 tons, off Juist, course 220°.

2002/2. 3 enemy armed trawlers, 53°41' N., 6°34' E. off the Ems.

2005/2. 2 enemy armed trawlers, 53°38' N., 6°28' E. off the Ems.

2200/2. Large convoy of 50 ships, course north, 55°35' N., 2°20' E., Horns Reef. (Report considered doubtful).
(I.C., 0439/40).

Norwegian Waters. At 0800/2, a/c,reported 19 merchant ships stationary between Haugesund and Stavanger and 2 merchant ships entering Stavanger.
(I.C., 0439/40).

Bergen Area. Information from Pilot P.O. Gardner, ARK ROYAL, shot down near Bergen 12/4 and returned to-day, re aircraft, mines, submarine, etc., (C.in C. H.F., 0013/2).
German submarine escape apparatus No. U.64 was recovered in Bogen on 30/4 (F.O. Narvik 2302/2).

M.T.B's. PORPOISE reports while on patrol enemy M.T.B's were continually operating during daylight between Lister and Egersund. Would help submarines considerably if these M.T.B's could be attacked by Machine guns from aircraft. Request consideration of this. (D.O.D.(H) to Air Min., 1300/2).

Stavanger, etc., Information from Norwegian naval ratings landed Peterhead (N.O.I.C.Peterhead 1701/2):- Only enemy naval units at Stavanger are 4 M.T.B's. At Christiansand North, 1 destroyer and captured Norwegian gunboat. A German A/C is reported to have had to return to Denmark to refuel owing to damage done to Stavanger aerodrome.

WAR DIARY. SECRET

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. 2.5.1940. Thursday.

LUIMNEACH.	Ashore vicinity Foreland, apparently no damage. (Burnham on Sea Radio 1005/2)
ST. GORAN	Sunk after many bombing attacks at Namsos. Lieutenant Commander W.C. McGuigan killed. Survivors probably picked up by CARLISLE. (Maurice, 1715/2).
SUFFOLK	Progress of repairs. Intended to take ship off beach on Friday or Saturday and move to deep water anchorage for final preparation for departure. (A.C.O.S. 1125/2).
ISLE OF JERSEY	Minor damage from SOMALI when coming alongside. (ISLE OF JERSEY 1835/2).

WAR DIARY. SECRET.

FOREIGN STATIONS. 2nd May, 1940.

NORTH ATLANTIC.

French Positions.	1300/2	(D.C.0338/2)

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

Fuelling Policy.	Repeating text of A.T.1711/20 to R.A.S.A.D., re Admiralty policy for fuelling. Neutral ports to be avoided in normal circumstances last 3 months' rule prevent fuelling in emergency. (Hd. of M., 1929/2 to C.in C.S.A)
BELMOIRA.	Norwegian, is heavy lift ship capable of handling weights up to 100 tons with own derricks. Suggest suitable for operations now in hand. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown,1710/2).
Trawlers.	Re building of trawlers to Brazilian plans received. (D.S.V.P.1942/2 to A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)

MEDITERRANEAN.

Contraband Patrol.	R.A.(D) requested to organise.(C.in C. Med., 1920/2).
Shipping Division.	Your 1746/1, re division of shipping in Mediterranean. (1) Is under consideration. (2) Yes. (A.C.N.S. 2054/2 to R.A.Alexandria)
WARSPITE.	Cancel any 1159/30 (C.in C. Med., 1214/2).
DELHI.	To form part of 3rd C.S. (C.in C. Med.1535/2
Store Ships.	Admiralty 1837/29. Group 91 (4 ships) will sail for Alexandria p.m.3/5. Ships are embarking stores and equipment to full capacity. Remainder will be forwarded at first opportunity. (C.in C. W.A.1735/2).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

MEDITERRANEAN. (Contd.)

CANGE.	Italian. Your 1706/1. 650 tons should be supplied on this occasion (D.E.W.D. 2018/2 to R.A. Alexandria).
BIRGITTE.	Danish, seized by French. Your 1203/1. Every endeavour being made to come to arrangement with the French. If an exchange can be effected BIRGITTE will sail under British flag. (Hd. of M. to Consul General Marseilles, 1652/2).

AMERICA AND WEST INDIES.

Bermuda Convoy Force.	Admiralty 2156/13 and 1950/15. A.M.C. from N.P. detailed for Bermuda Convoy Escort Force should reach Bermuda by 16/5 if possible. (D.O.O.(F) 1950/2). AURANIA detailed to join. Request report when defects completed and ship ready to sail. (V.A.N.P.2215/2).
Curacao-Aruba.	Admiralty 0233/25 and Adm. 1125/28, re naval patrols for protection of Curacao and Aruba refineries from sea bombardment. Request early decision as French Cruiser PRIM AUGUET arrives Kingston, Jamaica, 14/5, to discuss arrangements for possible combining of operations. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1516/2).

EAST INDIES.

Italian Mails.	Treatment of Italian Colonial mail. (D.E.W.D. 1653/2 to C.C.S.O. Aden).
RANCHI.	To leave Diego Suarez P.m.4/5 for Mombasa direct, but examining Assumption Island on passage. (C.in C. E.I. 1229/2).
Information for Germany.	Adm. 0810/28, passing of information to Germany. Suggestion is that ships call Italian ships near Italy on 600 Kc/s and then work on 705 Kc/s in plain language (Italian). Messages are then passed to Germany from Italy. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 10182/2).

WAR DIARY. SECRET

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. 2.5.1940.
Thursday.

Home Commands.

SCHIFFBEK. 2158 G.T. At 0639/2 gave her position as 53° 42' N., 6° 35' E., and reported she had sighted aircraft. (I.C., 0439/40).

OBERHAUSEN 1238 G.T., built 1939. Intercepted telegram dated 1109/30 stated ship was commandeered in the interest of the Reich and not available for carrying sawn timber from Reval to Delfzjil. (I.C.,0439/40).

America and West Indies.

STELLA Yacht, 179 G.T., American Legation at San Jose Costa Rica, reported to have confirmed this yacht now at Corinto has been sold to Nicaraguan Government. (I.C., 0439/40)

WAR DIARY

SECRET

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

2.5.1940.
Thursday.

S/M's	Reported.
0849	Admiralty A/C B.Q.D.N. 0010 course S. (C. in C. Rosyth 1210/2) 61° N., 1° 10' E., 080° Muckle Flugga 60'. (I.C., 0439/40)
1815	P/S reported by Coastguard, 55° 15' N., 1° 26' W. 1034° Blyth 9'. (I.C., 0439/40)

Estimated dispositions:-

At least one still in West Fiord.
2 N.E. of Shetlands 1/5, one possibly homeward bound.
1 still in Cape Wrath area. (D.D.I.C.1308/2).

War Diary

3.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

Narvik Area

RESOLUTION and AURORA carried out a successful bombardment of the Beis Fjord area. An ammunition store was exploded, the road was cut and many casualties inflicted on enemy troops. (The town of Narvik is at the entrance to this fiord).

Survey flights have been made from the Shetlands to investigate possible ladning grounds in Hangoy and Andoy Islands, Harstad and Bardu Foss, 40 miles north of Narvik.

A report from the Norwegian Navy states that a heavily loaded steamer was seen at 1239/3 about 50 miles south of West Fiord, heading north. BASILISK and STORK have been sent to locate and capture this ship.

There have been air raids on Harstadt by high-flying enemy aircraft in pairs, or singly.

Evacuation

General Paget gives the number of men evacuated from Aandalsnes as 4,764, and estimates 1,800 casualties.

With the exception of a small rearguard the evacuation of Namsos was completed by 0200/3. The ships are sailing for Scapa in two groups. 60 miles apart, each with a liner. Except for BISON and AFRIDI (both sunk), no ships have sustained serious damage and no transport has been hit. YORK has 1, 172 passengers, including G.O.C. Continuous air protection is being provided, and the second group is expected at Scapa about midnight 4/5/5.
CARLISLE has 130 from BITTERN, and 35 wounded.

British Air Activity

At 0340/3, a report was received from an aircraft back from patrol that a convoy of 50 ships was sighted at Horns Reef at 2200/2 proceeding north. No attack was launched owing to A.A. and searchlights. 3 Hudsons were sent, and submarines informed.

The raid on Stavanger aerodrome on the night of 2-3/5 is considered to have been successful.

All the usual patrols were flown.

10 aircraft were sent out on special duty during the night 3-4/5).

Situation Report (Continued)

Enemy Air Activity

Activity by enemy aircraft on 3/5 was maintained throughout the day, both in the Norwegian area and off the East Coast. Shortly after midnight May 2/3, there were several reports of enemy aircraft off Lowestoft and Cromer, and WAKEFUL, escorting the HX convoy in the Channel, was attacked and bombed without success at 0600.

The usual meteorological flight operated over the central North Sea and as far North as the Shetlands before returning down the Norwegian Coast to Stavanger. Enemy reconnaissance aircraft were active from an early hour over the North Sea between the Shetlands and Norway. DEVONSHIRE and ships in company returning from Namsos were continually shadowed from 0430, and were attacked repeatedly from 0850 - 1400. In the course of these attacks, the French destroyer BISON was hit by a bomb, her foremost magazine exploded, and she had subsequently to be sunk; AFRIDI was also hit by a heavy bomb, and sunk. No transports were hit. Over 50 planes attacked, and 2 certainly were shot down. GRIFFIN was bombed later in the afternoon by 5 enemy aircraft, but no hits were obtained. WAKEFUL, escorting a convoy in Channel, was bombed at 0600/3.

After dark, enemy aircraft were again active, numerous reports (X raids) being received of machines off the S.E. Coast.

General - Home Commands

Three French destroyers started from Dunkirk on a clean-up of the Belgian and Dutch coasts.

TARTU, CHEVALIER PAUL, MILAN, with SIKH and TARTAR, are operating off Jaederens Point to intercept two German transports, escorted by two torpedo boats, believed to be approaching Stavanger.

GLASGOW, with JACKAL and JAVELIN on passage to the Clyde, has 23 tons of bullion, 23 officers and 179 others, including casualties, on board.

Humber is open, Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne are closed. 3 magnetic mines have been exploded in the Humber area, and the search there continues. One in Liverpool Bay and two at Dunkirk have also been exploded.

HOME COMMANDS.

Situation Report (continued)

General - Foreign Stations

The Australian Convoy now off Ceylon will proceed via the Suez Canal.

MALAYA, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, with H.M.A.S. STUART and VAMPIRE, arrived at Alexandria on 3/5, where there is a considerable French naval force.

Movements

Submarines

Positions in North Sea and Norway (C. in C., H.F., 1515/3).
RUBIS to transfer from 10th to 9th submarine flotilla as convenient. (V.A.S. 1717/3).
Positions at 0600/4. (D.C., 2008/3).

War Diary

3.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

NARVIK

Situation — Adty. 0031/3. My 1147/3 will I hope show that situation is appreciated here. Am grateful for support promised. Am hoping to concentrate all ships here, RESOLUTION and 3 cruisers plus destroyers, to support attack on Narvik Wednesday 8/5. In that case, however, there will be a large number of valuable ships in harbour with no A/A defence. (F.O. Narvik, 2146/3).

A/S Groups, trawlers sunk — 15th and 16th A/S Groups sailed for Skjel Fiord ST. GORAN, GAUL and ASTON VILLA badly damaged and sunk in deep water. (C.S. 20, 0434/3).

Risk of Air Attack — Owing to risk of air attack, Convoys to and from Narvik area to pass westward of a line joining (a) 63° N., 04° W., (b) 66° N., 01° W. (C. in C., H.F. 1703/3).

12 pdr. guns, 6-in guns. — To meet urgent requirements in Norway for personnel trained 12 pdr. equipment agreement has been given to taking personnel from 2 guns Drake's Island 12 pdr. batteries until fresh personnel are trained. (D. of L.D. 1802/3). Ditto, 6-in. and 12 pdr. equipments, Cliff End and Nodes Point. (D. of L.D., 1803/3).

L.L. trawlers — One pair of L.L. trawlers required for Narvik. RUNSWICK BAY and SATA to be completed and sailed from Liverpool. (D.M.S., 1804/3).

Tugs — Arrangements for. (C. in C., H.F. 1927/3).

Port Accommodation — Full when F.S.3 arrives. Accommodation and facilities limited. Suggest H.K.1 go to Tromso, where there is ready A.A. protection, or remains at sea. (F.O. Narvik, 2115/3).

Fuel Stocks — Details (F.O., Narvik, 1325/3).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (continued)

NARVIK

Empty Ships, Escorts — Your 2013/2. Certainly will do everything possible to comply with your wishes and am only too anxious to get rid of empty ships. (N.O., NARVIK to C. in C., H.F., 1351/3).

Boom Defence — Your 2322/1 approved. PROTECTOR to be sailed on completion for Rosyth. (D.B.D. to F.O., Narvik, 1938/3).

Oerlikon Battery. — "B" Oerlikon Battery complete ex BIRMINGHAM to be sent to Narvik at first opportunity. (D.O.D.(H) 1834/3). Your 1834/3. Personnel have sailed for Clyde in ULSTER MONARCH. All their guns were destroyed before evacuation. (C. in C., H.F., 0032/4).

C. in C., H.F. 1616/3. No destroyer available Skjel Fiord. STORK has been sent. (PENELOPE, 1834/3 to D.8).

NAMSOS

Evacuation — Sailing of 1 and 2 completed. Approx. 6,400 troops embarked. Force is now all clear of Namsen Fiord. 5 trawlers sailed for Skjel Fiord. Am retaining CARLISLE, who has 130 survivors from BITTERN and 35 wounded. G.O.C. in YORK (C.S.1, 0446/3, 0543/3).

From Maurice:- Excepting small rear guard evacuation completed 0200 hours. Last party embarked about 0330. Presume you are recalling Mosjoen Party. Please wire personal instructions and orders for force. It will need considerable sorting out on shore. Units much mixed. (YORK, 1645/3).

Position, etc., at 1730. YORK has 1172 passengers, including Maurice and staff officers and about 20 sick and wounded. 1125 passengers are French, EL MANSUR (French transport) has 1744. NUBIAN has 2. In view of congestion on board intend turning over transport and HASTY to Capt. (D)5 at about 0800/4 and YORK to proceed with despatch with NUBIAN to Scapa. (YORK, 1735/3).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

NAMSOS. (Continued)

Evacuation (continued) — All transports and cruisers to proceed Scapa. YORK to remain in company with EL MANSUR till 1600/4. (C. in C., H.F. 2348/3).

Situation — Transports, and escorts. Except for BISON and AFRIDI, no ships have sustained serious damage and transports have not been hit. Speed of advance limited to 17 knots owing to engine defects in French A.M.C. EL DJEZAIR. CARLISLE high angle ammunition exhausted. Over 50 planes attacked, and 2 certainly were shot down. Enemy air observation commenced 0400 and still continues. (C.S.1. 1826/3).

MOSJOEN, MO, BODO.

Landing completed. — Operations completed unopposed and apparently unobserved (JANUS, 2350/2).

Stores — War Office no longer require stores in ROYAL ULSTERMAN to be landed at Mosjoen and they should be disembarked in Narvik area as desired by F.O., Narvik, preferably at Skjel Fiord. (D. of P., 1610/3).

ROYAL ULSTERMAN to discharge stores, mails, etc., for Narvik area into GRAFTON at Mo. (F.O., Narvik, 1923/3).

Army Companies — My 1809/2. War Office now wish 2 companies to go to Mosjoen and one company to Bodo. ULSTER PRINCE is therefore to embark 2 companies and stores for Mosjoen. ROYAL SCOTSMAN 1 company and stores for Bodo. (D.O.D.(H), 1831/3).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

AALESUND - PRIMROSE

Admiralty Thanks Their Lordships wish to express their high appreciation of the manner in which the Royal Naval and Royal Marine forces concerned in operation "Primrose" carried out their tasks. The difficulties which confronted them are well understood. Their determined action in support of the Army has proved invaluable. (First Lord, 1253/3).

Mails Request instructions for disposal of mail for Operation Primrose and Hammer. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1035/3). Return to men's ship or depot. ((Hd. of M., 2040/3).

FAROES.

Nets. GUARDIAN to lay B.1 indicator net defences at Skaale Fiord, Faroe Islands. IMELDA or other boom trawler will also be required to proceed Skaale Fiord. (D.B.D. 1535/3).

German Transports

Destroyer Sweep TARTU (S.O.), CHEVALIER PAUL, MILAN, SIKH and TARTAR to proceed to pass through position 58:45 N., 04:48 E. at 2200. Objective is two German transports escorted by two torpedo boats expected to be in this position at 2300 steering 325 degrees. Withdraw at high speed an hour before daylight and return Scapa. Positions of our submarines will be signalled but as these can only be estimated approximately submarines are not to be attacked. (C. in C., H.F., 1151/3 to R.A.D.).

Dutch Coast

Precautions Adty. 0011/1. Operations D.F. and E.F. Forces are to revert to 24 hour's notice. (D.O.D.(H), 1310/3).

GALATEA, ARETHUSA In view of the German threat to Holland, GALATEA and ARETHUSA are to be sailed for Sheerness and placed under orders of C. in C. Nore as soon as convenient and subject to

3.3.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

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War Diary

3.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Submarines Reports etc.

TAKU — To operate in Bjorne Fiord (R.A.S. 1724/3).

Norwegian Vessels

Escapes — Captain Hauge and 3 officers of Norwegian Navy arrived in a fishing vessel from Maloy. Details of escape. Companions have seized Danish S.S.FLYNDEBORD and are thought to have shaped course for Orkneys. He reports an order from Army authorities for Norwegians to hand in their arms to nearest depot. Anxious to have it contradicted by broadcast from London, as the Norwegian coast and islands are easily defended and this opportunity of harassing the enemy should not be neglected. (N.O.I.C., Lerwick, 2227/3).

Norwegian S.S.BORGUND, owner, Capt. Puntervald, Norwegian Navy, retired, of Aalesund, has arrived in ballast and carrying 42 German prisoners in charge of one Norwegian military officer and 4 privates. Prisoners being turned over to Military and will be sent south to Aberdeen in next mail steamer. Capt. Puntervald hopes that his ship may be able to continue trading. Have put him in touch with Norwegian Consulate. Request instructions as to this vessel. (A.C.O.S., 1014/3).

Submarine B.6 — Norwegian submarine B.6 without any British instructions and possibly without adequate charts may be on passage from Sogne Fiord to an East Coast port and may attempt to identify herself to a British man of war. (R.A.(S) 1919/3).

Stores not Shipped — My 1302/2, stores for Norwegian authorities not yet shipped. These are to be returned to Military Depot, Stirling, and Army authorities informed. (D.C.D.(H) to C. in C. Rosyth, 2153/3).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (continued)

Convoys, Norway.

Escorts	For ULSTER PRINCE, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, etc. (C. in C., H.F., 0016/3). Send one destroyer back for SAINT ROHAN and GUNVORMAESK who have missed the convoy. (F.O.C.C.O.S., 1239/3 to JASON). Sailed escorted by WALKER two hours late. (F.O.C.C.O.S. 1535/3).
F.P.3	Orders, destinations, and escort. (F.O., Narvik, 1832/3). BRITISH LORD and rest of convoy, orders to (F.O., Narvik, 2231/3).
F.S.3 and F.P.3	Route until instructions from Narvik. (C. in C., H.F., 1558/3).
Returning Convoys	All cruisers and transports proceed to Scapa. YORK is to remain in company with EL MANSUR till 1600/4. (C. in C., H.F., 2348/3).
F.P.2	Request you will sail PROVIDENCE to Brest with F.P.2. (D.O.D.(H) 1703/3 to C. in C., Rosyth).
H.K.1	To sail when ready 3/5 for Narvik. (C. in C., H.F. 0025/3). Details (F.O.C.C.O.S. 2134/3). Route amended (A.C.O.S. 1912/3). Sailed from Scapa (A.C.O.S. 1913/3).
META	Adty. 1526/1, (Convoys). Request META sail for Scapa when ready. (C. in C., H.F. 0030/3).
	Amending Adty 1526/1 for BALZAC, CHOBRY, etc. (D.O.D.(H) 1505/3).

War Diary

3.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity

FURIOUS	Can accommodate 20 Gladiators in addition to aircraft for own protection. (FURIOUS, 1025/3).
Air Protection	My 1151/3. Request air protection for force while returning a.m. tomorrow Saturday. (C. in C., H.F., 1154/3).
Ryg Aerodrome	Attacks on, report. (H.Q., B.C.,0115/3, 0400/3)
Security Patrol	Report. (H.Q.B.C., 0515/3).
Stavanger	Attack on, report. (H.Q.B.C., 0800/3).
Fornebu	Attack on, report (H.Q., B.C., 0820/3).
Enemy Patrol Vessel	Attacked by aircraft on patrol at 0832, JSRU 0238. No hits. No A.A. fire. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1309/3).

Enemy Air Activity

LONDONDERRY	1 aircraft approx. true course 270°, position 005 CPWY 30. (0042/3).
WESTON	2 aircraft course 220°, position CPWY 2910. (0044/3).
VALENTINE	1 aircraft course 270°, position CPWY 1701. (0151/3).
DEVONSHIRE	Shadowed 1 aircraft position 165 RJGD 21. (0444/3, 0830/30, 0835/3). Bombed (0850/3). Continuous bombing 355 RJCU 46. (1017/3). 3 aircraft bombing (1352/3).
WAKEFUL	Help, Jumbo (HXA Convoy). (WAKEFUL, 0600/3).

HOME COMMANDS

Air. (Continued)

Enemy Air Activity (Continued)

BISON sunk	Hit, 353 RJCU 44. (DEVONSHIRE, 1010/3). Foremost magazine exploded. GRENADE, IMPERIAL, standing by. AFRIDI reinforcing MONTCALM's screen. 39 aircraft have attacked escort vessel (DEVONSHIRE 1030/3). BISON to be sunk (C.S.1, 1110/3).
AFRIDI sunk	Hit. (DEVONSHIRE, 1353/3). Sunk by heavy bomb from JU.87 in position 296 QFJV 34, (C.S.1, 1447/3). Had on board survivors from BISON.
GRIFFIN	Bombed, 5 aircraft (1530/3). Not hits (1531/3).
CALCUTTA	Summary of air attacks on CALCUTTA on 1st May. 40 high or medium level or dive bombing attacks. 156 bombs dropped. No hits. No casualties. 2 enemy aircraft shot down and seen to crash. 2 enemy aircraft probably shot down but not actually seen to crash. 2 enemy aircraft damaged so that their return to base is doubtful. (CALCUTTA, 0815/3).
German Aircraft fuelling	Evacuated military officer says Norwegians report that aircraft form Germany land on beach at Egersund to replenish petrol on way north. (C. in C., H.F., 1021/3).

Mining

Whale Catchers	List due Falmouth 6/5 to fit out for Double L minesweeping. (D.M.S., 1801/3).
Trawlers	My 1249/30. Sailing of Double L trawlers to be postponed till further signal made. (C. in C., Nore, 1845/3).
BORDE	Operation of BORDE postponed. Cancel my 1131/30/4. (C. in C., Nore, 1053/3).
Floating Mines	Nine, apparently moored, reported on a line 2 miles from coast between 58:33 N., 58:45 N. ORZEL reports them in the same position for three days. (I.C., 0440/40).

SECRET WAR DIARY 3rd May 1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.
ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

Transport — Transport and escort off Borkum (A/C 206 Sqd.0610/3)

Convoy — A/C reports a large convoy of 50 ships in 55° 35' N., 7°20' E., at 2200/2, course N (D.C.0411/3, to S/Ms on patrol and C.in C.H.F)

Merchant Ships — Norwegian Navy reports heavily loaded steamer passed position 66° 45' N., 13°05', going North, flying Norwegian flag, A/A armament on bridge. (PENELOPE,1239/3) BASILISK and STONK sent to capture (PENELOPE 1834/3) D.8,1725/3)
1 M.V. 10,000 - 12,000 tons, 53°35' N.,6°30' E. at 0545/3 reported by A/C (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0958/3)

Seaplane Bases — Norwegians report German seaplane base moved from Trelegsvik, 59° 26' 10" N., 10°23' 30" E., to Malvik, 59°28' 20" N., 10° 10' 30" E. and Sandhaugt, 59°33' N., 10°16'E. Hoeland racecourse near Narvik, 59°02'45" N., 10°03'E., has been reconstructed by Germans. (F.O.Narvik 1704/3).

German Troops — From War Office. Intelligence Report to 1800/2. Germans believed to be in position approx. 2 kilometres S.W. of Elvenes and in area Skabvand. (D. of P.1507/3 to F.O.Narvik.

Suspicious Vessels — Number of vessels showing lights reported during last 2 nights in area bounded by lat.56°N., and 57°N., 2°E.,and 4° E. believed fishing vessels. (see also S/Ms reported)D.D.I.C.1630/3)

Trondheim Minefield — Reported that a controlled minefield has been laid at Trondheim from position 1½ cables north of Munkolmen to Hovsingen (DDIC 1557/3)

Dutch Coast — Related report received 3/5 stated that 2 German minelayers and 2 U-boats were in a position 25' West of the Hook of Holland at 0530/2. Presumed were of the armed trawler type.(I.C.0440/40)

Oslo — A/C reports several unidentified merchant ships 6-7 miles W.S.W. of Stromstad, Oslo Fiord,between 0010 and 0135/3.(I.C.0440/40).

Bjorne Fiord — TRIDENT reports on returning from patrol 2 torpedo boats and 2 motor minesweepers in Bjorne Fiord whilst she was in that area (I.C.,0440/40).

German Signals. — From N.O.I.C.Stornoway. Skipper of drifter TRANSCEND reports when fishing W.N.W.(mag.) 17 miles from Cape Wrath hearing extremely loud R/T signals in German on 173 metres from 0200 to 0207 today 3/5 Signals were mainly in figure groups finishing with Heil Hitler and seemed so near that Skipper thought a U-boat had surfaced close by him. (C.in C.Rosyth 2534/3).

SECRET WAR DIARY 3.5.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS
Shipping.

Norwegian Ships	Loaded with pulp, awaiting attempt to escape to proceed to Kirkwall. Ascertain from Maurice the position of Lansdesless where he reported on a ship, and inform JANUS immediately (C.S.I.6529/3, C.in C.H.F. to YORK 0853/3) Maurice cannot give information (YORK 1730/3). Request position Lansless (JANUS to C.in C.H.F.1911/3).
Degaussing	Six ships of S.L.29 for London ordered Portland for degaussing. (D.T.D.1945/3). 3 ships of H.G.F.29 ditto.(D.T.D.1829/3)
Convoys	Position (D.C.1818/3)
Fishing	Areas available (D.T.D.1910/3)

WAR DIARY

SECRET

MISCELLANEOUS.

5.5.1940.
Friday.

"Q" Messages Insecure.

Following received from Flag Officer-in-Charge Liverpool:-
Details of Admiralty message 478 A Z were not communicated to H.M.S. VIMY while vessel was at sea, in spite of this vessel readily decyphered message of 'Q' series owing to similarity of their preamble and by so doing deduced the procedure detailed in 478 A Z. Suggest existing arrangements are therefore insecure. 1615/3. I entirely concur. (C. in C. W.A. 2122/3).

WEATHER

	Wind.	Weather	Visibility.
North Sea, N.	S.S.E. Moderate	Fair to cloudy.	Good.
North Sea, S.	N. - N.E., light to moderate.	Coastal haze.	Moderate.
Horns Reef.	E., fresh.	Fair to cloudy.	Good.
Channel	N., light to moderate.	Coastal haze.	Moderate.
W. Approaches.	N., light to moderate.	Fair to cloudy.	Good.
Norwegian.	S. - S.W. light to moderate.	Fair to cloudy, fog patches, probable.	Moderate to good, poor in fog.

Outlook, no marked change.

SECRET.

WAR DIARY

3rd May 1940
Friday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

DUNCOW Board of Inquiry to be convened (C.in C.Nore to F.O.Humber, 1854/3)

ST.GORAN)
GAUL)A/S Trawlers, sunk in deep water, badly damaged(see Narvik)
ASTON)
VILLA)

UNITY Assumed that remainder of crew of S/M UNITY are dead.(V.A.S.0027/3).

FOREIGN STATIONS
North Atlantic.

French Positions — Convoys and Patrols (D.C.0046/3)

South Atlantic.

HAWKINS Relief — Your 1242/30. Present intention is that HAWKINS should be relieved by AJAX in August 1940. (D.O.D.(F) 1601/1).

U.S.3 — My 2345/3 (see Australia). No action to provide a second 8 in.cruiser for U.S.3 is required at present (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C.S.A.2349/3).

Mediterranean.

Arrivals — My 1204/2/2. Italian Naval Attache today informed MALAYA and ROYAL SOVEREIGN have been added to Mediterranean Fleet and ARK ROYAL and FURIOUS have left Mediterranean.(D.N.I.1342/3) to N.A.Rome).

Arrivals 3/5:- MALAYA, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, STUART, VAMPIRE, French battleships PROVENCE, LORRAINE, BRETAGNE, French cruisers TIGRE, LYNX, French destroyer POMBIN.(S.O.I.Alexandria 1921/3).

U.S.2 — Admty 2005/2 (destroyer escort from Aden if U.S.2 is to proceed to Egypt). No R.A.N. destroyers available owing to boiler cleaning. DECOY and DEFENDER detailed and arriving Suez p.m.4/5. (C.in C.Med.,1333/3).

WARSPITE — Admty 1821/30. Hope WARSPITE will move to Alexandria as soon as considered safe, and not dependent on return of 3 French battleships to Western Basin. Urgently required as Fleet Flagship (C.in C.Med.2009/3). To proceed Alexandria not calling Gibraltar or Malta.Passage through Straits to be made during dark hours. (D.O.D.(F) 2322/3).

Positions — MALAYA,ROYAL SOVEREIGN and 4 destroyers to Alexandria,also cruisers DELHI and CAPETOWN.(D.C.,0800/3).

Shipping — Your 1746/1.(1) Vessels with substantial amounts of corp cargo for Mediterranean ports may proceed, but vessels carrying small quantities will be considered individually and instructions sent. (2) Yes. (D.of S.T.to R.A.Alexandria 1027/3).

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SECRET | WAR DIARY | 3rd May, 1940 Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

U.S.2 — Arrived Colombo 3/5, escorted by RAMILLIES and French cruiser. SUFFREN (801 Colombo 0631 2/3)

Port Sudan — Arrival 3/5 Liverpool with flag of F.O.C.4 C.S. (R.O.Port Sudan 1150/3)

Admty.2351/30 and 5306/3 from Australian Naval Board. Is U.S.2 to be sailed via Red Sea or Cape ? (C.E.in C. E.I. 1747/3)

KENT is to sail with U.S.2 from Colombo. In event of convoy being diverted before reaching Aden, KENT will relieve SUFFREN for passage to Cape. (D.O.D.(F)2006/3).

Your 1747/3. U.S.2 to be sailed according to programme via Red Sea. (D.O.D.(F) 2324/3 to C.in C.E.I).

America and West Indies.

AURANIA — Ready to sail for Bermuda 12/5 (F.O.C.N.P.2310/3)

Australia.

U.S.2. — Cancel my 0648Z/1. Australian Govt. agrees to Convoy U.S.2. sailing as originally arranged. (A.C.N.B.0306Z/3).

U.S.2 & 3 — Admiralty intentions for escorts in event of diversion via the Cape. (D.O.D.(F)2345/3 to Australia and New Zealand Naval Boards.

AUSTRALIA — Offer in your 1245/2 to permit AUSTRALIA to escort U.S.3 to Cape of Good Hope if diverted much appreciated. (Intentions detailed) If no diversion and U.S.3 proceeds normally, KENT may have difficulty in making Cocos Island R.V. In these circumstances, Admty. would be grateful if Commonwealth Govt. would agree to AUSTRALIA remaining with U.S.3 as far as Colombo (D.O.D.(F)2346/3)

WAR DIARY

SECRET
3.5.40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

Unknown Ship. — Attacked by TRIDENT with torpedo and gunfire and driven ashore in Lange Nuen, became a total loss. (I.C.0440/40)

North Atlantic.

KLAUS SCHOKE, LUISE BORNHOFEN. — At Horta, Azores, wished to move to roadstead to save expenses. Unable to do so, unable to obtain 75 tons of coal. (I.C.0440/40).

China.

MONI RICKMERS, WASGENWALD, WERDENFELS (at Sabang);

SONECK, BITTERFELS, WUPPERTAL (at Padang);

NAUMBURG (at Sourabaya). Fuel details and appearance of these. (I.C.0440/40).Capt. O.S. Singapore, 06642/3). DANAE reports all German ships at Sabang have raised or are raising steam.

WAR DIARY SECRET

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING. 3.5.40. Friday.

S/M's Reported.

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C.1521/3).

0825 56° 30' N., 2° 30' E., 112° Bucham Ness, 150°. Indefinite position.

1205 D.F. unknown enemy unit, 57° 20' N., 3° E. unreliable fix, probable U-Boat. D.D.I.C.1312/3).

1334 D.F. unreliable fix 56° 10' N., 2° 30' E. (D.D.I.C.1501/3).

1205 Considerable enemy W/T activity since 1205 between 57° 20' N., 3° E., and 55° 30' N., 2° E. possibly U Boats. (D.D.I.C. 1630/3).

2215 Norwegian report submarines outside Bliksvaer, 66° 17' N., 13° 15' E., going North. (PENELOPE 2301/3).

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

Narvik Area

Allied troops are now half way from Gratagen to Bjervik and and increasing pressure.

The construction of landing grounds for our aircraft in the Narvik area is being pressed forward.

Two store convoys are on passage.

ARK ROYAL, escorted by CURLEW and 6 destroyers sailed from Scapa at 1615/4 to provide fighter protection in the Narvik Area.

There was only one report of enemy air activity in the Narvik area, when the Polish destroyer GROM was hit from a height of 15,000 feet and sunk.

Mosjoen, Mo, Bodo

ROYAL ULSTERMAN, escorted by MOHAWK, landed 300 troops and stores at Mo, 4/5. Operation was apparently unobserved.

Evacuation, Namsos.

Troops evacuated from the Namsos area arrived at Scapa. Serious casualties from BISON and AFRIDI were transferred to the French hospital ship SPHINX at Sullom Voe for passage to Scapa.

Submarine Operations

SEVERN reported that she had sunk the Swedish ship MONARK, 1786 tons off the Lister Light.

British Air Activity

In addition to the normal A/S patrols, a reconnaissance of the Dutch coast was carried out; no enemy activity observed. 4 aircraft completed a Security Patrol. 17 aircraft were engaged on special duty during the night of 4-5/5.

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report. (contd.)

Enemy Air Activity

Very little activity during the day. Enemy aircraft continued their overnight operations off S. and S.E. Coast between 0400 and 0600, several reports being received of aircraft off the coast between Yarmouth and Beachy Head, and one report from 12' E.N.E. of entrance to R. Tees.

Two meteorological flights were carried out during the day, one in southern half of North Sea, other over the northern North Sea to a latitude of 61° N.

It is believed that between 2056 and 2118/4 enemy aircraft circling low between Fair Island and the Orkneys. Mine-laying is suspected.

General

It has been reported that the Norwegian submarine B.6 may be on passage to England.

The following ports are closed - Tees, Hartlepool, Blyth and Middlesbrough. Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne are open to demagnetised ships.

RAMILLIES and SUFFREN, with the second Australian and New Zealand Convoy, left Colombo pm/4 for Aden.

Movements

CARLISLE — Numbers returning in, chiefly ex BITTERN. (C.S.1, 2131/4).

VERDUN — French, sailed for Brest with Rear-Admiral Moreau. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1355/4).

Submarines — Positions 0600/5 (D.C., 2237/4)(V.A.S. 1744/4)

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

NARVIK

GROM	Sunk (see Air).
Allied Aircraft	Directions when approaching Narvik (F.O., Narvik, 1149/4).
Petrol, etc., for Aircraft	To arrive Narvik 11/5 and 12/5. Carriers will not be required to sail before 11/5. (V.C.N.S. to F.O., Narvik, 1919/4).
A.A. Defences	Your 2125/3. Destination of all convoys is at your discretion. ARK ROYAL and additional A.A. ships should reach you on Monday and situation as regards A.A. defence should then improve. You are no doubt taking steps to keep as many transports and supply ships out of the danger area for next 3 days. (D.O.D.(H). 1926/4 to F.O. Narvik.).
Landing Grounds	Adty 2208/2. Reconnaissance of Bardufoss and second promising site found at Skaanland shows neither of these landing grounds can be prepared by 12/5 on account of thaw and inadequate resources to clear snow and make extensions. Under adverse circumstances possible that neither of these aerodromes will be ready before mid-June. As enemy appears to be relying on float planes for operations Narvik area considered fighters on floats would be an adequate counter. Strongly urged F.A.A. or French float planes should be employed here at once to cover period until aerodrome can be suitably prepared. (F.O. Narvik, 2329/4).
Civil Supplies	Desired shortly to introduce regular supplies for civil population of Northern Norway. Intended that ships should be included in N.S. Convoys from Clyde for onward routing by F.O., Narvik to northern ports returning to base for homeward convoy. (D.T.D., 1949/4).

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

NARVIK "

Skjel Fiord, Trawlers — Trawlers CAPE PASSARO, SAINT KENAN, SAINT LONAN of 15th A/S S.E., ANGLE of 16th A/S S.F., arrived Skjel Fiord. After fuelling intend send 15th A/S S.F. to water at Lodingen and then reinforce Pfot Bogen at full speed. (PENELOPE, 2141/4).

Bardufoss Aerodrome — From Wing Com. Atcherly. Bardufoss now covered 3 feet snow. Will signal as soon as estimate can be made of time to put aerodrome serviceable. Suitable for Gladiators but for Hurricanes only with great care. (F.O., Narvik, 1005/3).

Stores, Mails — ROYAL ULSTERMAN to discharge stores, mails, personnel, etc., for Narvik area into GRAFTON at Mo. (F.O., Narvik, 1923/3).

I.S.T.D.C. Pier — Your 1947/1. Work is to be given first Priority. (Alterations to pier, required for Vaagsö Fiord). (D. of L.D., to A.S., Portsmouth 1928/4).

AANDALSNES, NAMSOS, (Personnel from).

Troops on passage — Details of troops in transports French ships EL DJEZAIR and EL KANTARA (C.S. 1, Glasgow, 2058/4).

Numbers — Troops evacuated from Molde and Aandalsnes area in LANCASTRIA, SOBIESKI and BATORY - numbers. (C. in C., H.F., 0031/4).

Glasgow Arrivals — Details and arrangements for troops arriving at Glasgow. (D. of S.T. to F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 2058/4).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

MOSJOEN, MO, BODO.

Sweep — Your 1725. Nothing located in Bodo, Salt Fiord or vicinity. Intend to sweep for Submarines mentioned in your 2301/3 from Tennholmen Light returning to Ofot Fiord about 0730 (BASILISK, 0114/4).

Landing Operation — Operation completed apparently unobserved. All stores, mails, etc., excepting those landed at Mo were transferred to SCOTT. Ships sailed for Scapa 0645 (MOHAWK,2205/4)

Iceland - Operation Fork

Orders — A force is being sent to Iceland (total 817 officers and men) including R.M. Battalion, R.N howitzer crews, R.M. gun crews. Force to be self-contained and provided with one month's provisions. To embark Greenock a.m. Tuesday 7/5 in ships detailed by C. in C., H.F., stores being consigned to Greenock and marked Force FORK. (D. of P. 1903/4).

Details of Naval Howitzer Section from Portsmouth to accompany R.M. Battalion. (D.T.S.D., 1904/4).

O.C. — Cash £3,000 to be handed to Colonel R.G. Sturges, R.M., O.C. Force FORK, prior to sailing (D. of P. 1930/4).

Allied Submarines

TAKU — Unknown number of enemy merchant ships expected to pass through LKND 3205 south-bound today Saturday. TAKU proceed through this position and thence coastwise to Selbjorne Fiord. (R.A.S. 0706/4).

STURGEON — Cancel my 0706. Enemy ships now expected to pass JSND 3205 on way to Stavanger. STURGEON proceed to JSND 3000 (V.A.S. 0944/4)

ORZEL — (see Enemy Intelligence).

4.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Allied Submarines (Contd.)

Minelaying Programme	Minelaying programme proposed for NARWHAL, SEAL and PORPOISE. (V.A.S., 1859/4). Cancelled (0406/5).
TRIDENT	Patrol report 25/4 to 2/5. (S.2, 1145/4). Refers to attack and destruction of German merchant ship at 0926/2 in Langenuess. Ship beached herself on Scorpa Island in Koss Fiord. Finished off with torpedo.
TRITON	Patrol report 26/4 to 3/5. (TRITON, 0011/4)

Convoys, Norway.

F.P.3	Your 1832/3. F.Ø.3 expects arrive R.V. 2000 with escort of ECHO as S.O., /with C. in C., Norwegian Navy and Staff on board) WARWICK, WHIRLWIND, AMAZON, BRAZEN, French cruiser EPERVIER. Request instructions for escort. (ECHO to F.O. Narvik, 0358/4). Reply, (F.O., Narvik, 1003/4).
N.P.2, N.S.2,) N.P.3, N.S.3,)	Arrangements for (D. of P. 1804/4 to F.O. Narvik).
MASHOBRA	Arrangements to send R.M.F.U. and MNBDO pier in. (Hd. of M., to F.O., Narvik, 1856/4, amended 2335/4).
HKI	Your 2125/3. Destination of H.K.I. and all other convoys is at your discretion. (D.O.D.(H) 1926/4 to F.O. Narvik).
JANUARY	Sailed with HK1 and will not join N.S.2 (F.O.C.O.S., 1532/4).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (contd.)

Norway - Intelligence

Information received from Norwegian crew of HE.115 re Lt. Comdrs. G. Villiers and H. Stoddart of British Consulate, Bergen, and their families, also 3 Norwegian Captains, Ulstrup, Milbye and Hauze who have lost their ships. (H.Q., C.C., 2300/4) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1307/4).

Comdr. Herve, Royal Norwegian Navy and Capt. Motzfeldo, Norwegian Air Force, to sail in CHOBRY and report CLAVER HOUSE p.m. 6/5. (D.O.D.(H) 1905/4).

Comdr. Hauze, R.N.N., has arrived at Lerwick in a fishing vessel and is being flown to Invergordon today. (O.C. 0039/4).

Comdr. Hauze and Lieut. Hansen arriving London 0745/5. (R.A., Invergordon, 1437/4).

B.6 Submarine — Norwegian submarine B.6 may be on passage from Sogne Fiord to an east coast port and may attempt to identify herself to a British warship. (H.Q., C.C., to 18 Group, 1625/4).

Norwegian Ministers — Norwegian Foreign Minister and Minister for Defence arriving Euston 0642 tomorrow. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 2050/4).

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Aircraft

Recognition Markings

Following signal sent to all R.A.F. Commands at Home and overseas begins X.485. 1/5/40 following recognition markings to be painted on all aircraft earliest possible moment. Fuselage roundels to be encircled with yellow strip of same width as existing blue circle. Vertical stripe of red white and blue of same width to be painted on fins repeat fins. Blue to be nearest rudder but clear of hinge. Ends. This applies to Fleet Air Arm aircraft. (Hd. of Air Branch, 2159/4).

British Air Activity

Attacks on Flak Ships

Ref. N.L.D. 4/5 ASD/210 11/4. Further to Coastal Command Tactical Instruction No.7 photographs show that certain ships which may be operating as flak-ships and patrol vessels are equipped with circular gun platforms fore and aft. These platforms show up clearly and in themselves are sufficient to show that the vessel forms part of an enemy fleet. Attacks on any small vessels equipped with these circular gun platforms seen in the Heligoland Bight anywhere south east of the line joining Westerland (Sylt) to Borkum would be justified even though it did not open fire provided it started to take avoiding action or to fire identification signals. Captains of aircraft would be justified in attacking such ships under the conditions stated unless they carried neutral markings. (H.Q., C.C., 1632/4).

HOME COMMANDS

Air. (contd.)

Enemy Air Activity

Very little activity reported during the day, but intensive activity (probably minelaying) during the night of 3-4/5. The first phase took place between 2116/3 and 0104/4 in the Downs and Straits of Dover; the second between 0302 and 0338 from 50 miles east of Yarmouth to the Straits of Dover Enemy aircraft were again reported between 0416 and 0614, one travelling between 50 miles E. of Yarmouth and 45 miles South of Beachy Head, and another crossing and recrossing the coast in the regions of Cromer and Lowestoft respectively.

Two meteorological flights took place over the North Sea during the forenoon, one covering the southern North Sea (possibly one of the last two aircraft mentioned above), the other covering the northern North Sea as far as 61° N.

Enemy naval aircraft were probably patrolling off the Norwegian coast during the morning, and there were further reports of the usual troop carrying activity (controlled by Utersen and Stade); flights between Hamburg, Neumunster and Oslo were reported.

During the afternoon enemy aircraft were engaged in reconnaissance in the northern North Sea and up the Norwegian coast. One aircraft reported sighting nothing in the region of Mosjoen, and another reported sighting nothing in approx. position 62:12 N., 0:25 E. (H.Q. Coastal Command, 1758/4).

Portsmouth

Enemy air attack is imminent at Portsmouth (Portsmouth W/T, 0521/4).

Narvik
GROM sunk

During air attack this morning off Narvik. Polish destroyer GROM sunk. (S.O. Narvik, 0905/4). Was bombed from a height of 15,000 feet.

It is believed that a torpedo was detonated and the ship sank in 5 minutes. One officer and 65 ratings missing. 151 survivors, including 11 seriously wounded. British ratings and the liaison officer were saved (D.C.N.S.).

HOME COMMANDS

Air (contd.)

Suspected Minelaying

Between 2056 and 2118/4, thirteen plots were received indicating enemy aircraft circling low between Fair Island and the Orkneys. Minelaying was suspected, but owing to the depth of water only cruisers and above were advised to avoid the Channel. Fighters were sent up arrived six minutes after the last plot and found nothing. (D.C.N.S.).

WAR DIARY. 4.5.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Mining.

ORZEL Report	Your 1843/2. 9 floating mines sighted in same position for 3 days so presumed moored. Run approx. line 2 miles from coast between 58°33' N., and 58°45' N. Jaederens light buoy appears removed, small whistle buoy only remaining. (ORZEL, 0001/4 to R.A.S.)
Channel Ports.	Admiral Nord states he is stopping all traffic whether ships are demagnetised or not both in and out of Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne, until he has been able to carry out further sweeps to-day. (V.A. Dover, 0106/4.)
New Magnetic Mines.	Germans believed to have intented new type of magnetic mine which nullifies degaussing process. (Press Association report).
A/C Mines.	A/C mining is suspected in an area 3 miles radius from position 189° Fair Island 19 miles (I.C., 0441/40) (see Air).

Enemy Intelligence.

Trondheim Area.	Notes on Lights, U-boats, controlled minefields etc. Surface force believed to consist of captured Norwegian T.B. LAKS and possibly one German gunnery training vessel BRUMMER class and one damaged destroyer (C. in C. H.F. 0127/4, to CLYDE). Additional details (1740/4).
Horns Reef.	5 vessels reported in line ahead in position 120 miles W. of Horns Reef light vessel at 0120/4, no course given. (I.C., 0440/40.)
Minesweepers	5 M. Class German minesweepers have been sweeping up coast and in entrance to Stavanger to-day. Thought they have swept or sunk by gunfire mines reported in my 0001/4 (ORZEL, 2200/4).

Shipping

HOME COMMANDS.
Mining.

ORZEL Report — Your 1043/2. 9 floating mines sighted in same position for 3 days so presumed moored. Run approx. line 2 miles from coast between 58°33' N., and 58°45' N. Jaederens light buoy appears removed, small whistle buoy only remaining. (ORZEL, 0001/4 to R.A.S.)

Channel Ports. — Admiral Nord states he is stopping all traffic whether ships are demagnetised or not both in and out of Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne, until he has been able to carry out further sweeps to-day. (V.A. Dover, 0106/4.)

New Magnetic Mines. — Germans believed to have invented new type of magnetic mine which nullifies degaussing process. (Press Association report).

A/C Mines. — A/C mining is suspected in an area 3 miles radius from position 189° Fair Island 19 miles (I.C., 0441/40) (see Air).

Enemy Intelligence.

Trondheim Area. — Notes on Lights, U-boats, controlled minefields etc. Surface force believed to consist of captured Norwegian T.B. LAKS and possibly one German gunnery training vessel BRUMMER class and one damaged destroyer (C. in C. H.F. 0127/4, to CLYDE). Additional details (1740/4).

Horns Reef. — 5 vessels reported in line ahead in position 120 miles W. of Horns Reef light vessel at 0120/4, no course given. (I.C., 0440/40.)

Minesweepers — 5 M. Class German minesweepers have been sweeping up coast and in entrance to Stavanger to-day. Thought they have swept or sunk by gunfire mines reported in my 0001/4 (ORZEL, 2200/4).

Shipping

Ports Reopened. — Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne now open to demagnetised ships. (V.A. Dover 1201/4)

Humber/

HOME COMMANDS. 4.5.1940.
Shipping (contd) Saturday.

Humber	Humber has been reopened (I.C.,0440/40.)
Firing Practice	Merchant vessels in F.N.63 will carry out 12 pr. firing practice between Outer Dowsing and Flamborough on 6/5 if weather is suitable. (C. in C. Nore 1937/4).
Convoys	Positions, Ocean Convoys (D.C. 1929/4).
Danish Ships.	Treatment of merchant ships wearing Danish flags or markings. (Air Ministry 1310/4, repeats previous Admty.signal on this subject).

Miscellaneous.

Russian Reports.	Reported (C.3) that movements of British ships in Northern Norwegian waters are reported by W/T to Murmansk in Russian Naval Code.(D.N.I.1828/4)

WEATHER

0500/4	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
N.Sea	E., fresh	Moderate or good,coastal haze.	Similar.
Channel	N.N.W.light or moderate.	Moderate,poor in Straits of Dover.	Wind backing and freshening later.
W.Approaches.	Variable light.	Good.	Wind becoming S.W. fresh,visibility deteriorating.
Horns Reef.	E.,fresh	Mainly good,some coastal haze.	Similar.
W Coast Norway	S.E.in south, to S.W.in north.	Good in south,moderate in north.	Similar.

4.5.40
Saturday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS
Home Commands.

DANEMAN
WELLARD
BLACK FLY } Damaged by grounding. Permanent repairs required. To sail for Scapa p.m. 6/5. (PENELOPE 1601/4)

MAGICIENNE Danish, ashore at Peatha Bay. Crew landed safely. (C in C. Rosyth 0038/4)

GROM Polish destroyer, sunk (see Air)

New Zealand

HECTOR - (see Foreign Stations)
THORSHOV

WAR DIARY SECRET.

4.5.40
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS
North Atlantic.

WARSPITE — Route for, on passage through to Alexandria. (FOCHA 1110A/4)

French Units. — Positions, convoys and Patrols, at 1300/5 (D.C.2355/4)

South Atlantic

BULOLO — H.M.S.BULOLO required to transport Gambia Company of Sierra Leone Battn., R.W.African Frontier Force, from Bathurst to Freetown. Programme. (C.in C.S.A.1310/4)

PATELLA — Asking for news of PATELLA (D.T.D.1200/4) Sailed from Freetown 30/4 for Pointe a Pierre (C.in C.S.A.2219/4)

Mediterranean

Polish Personnel — Polish authorities have enquired whether:(a) In view of Mediterranean situation do you advise continuation of shipping of Polish Military personnel from Split and Athens to Marseilles, or would it be advisable to ship them to Beirut instead. (b) As regards Admiralty instructions regarding British ships in Mediterranean, can s.s.PATRIS still be used either in Marseilles or Beirut transport. (c) Do you approve chartering by Poles of an Italian ship which is available for additional use in this traffic. (N.A.Belgrade 1700/4)

Italian Submarines } Official movements due about 10/5.(S.O.I.Malta 2133/4)

Dispositions, CAPETOWN,DELHI AND CALEDON on patrol; OTUS,OLYMPUS 35° North, 20° East to Malta; NEPTUNE 34° North, 24° East to Alexandria; RESOURCE, WATERHEN, VENDETTA and VOYAGER 34° North, 24° East to Alexandria. (D.C.0817/5).

East Indies.

Danish Ships. — Unrest in AFRIKA and ELEONORA MAERSK at Colombo abd Bahrein. (C.In C.E.I. 1542/4)

FOREIGN STATIONS
America and West Indies

Bermuda Convoys — Admty.1950/2 (A.M.C.to join Bermuda Convoy Escort Force) Request name of A.M.C. and other details.(C.in C.A.W.I.,2301/4)

Curacao - Aruba — My 1237/20 and 1118/21 - As no adverse reports received, it has been decided allow 2 Norwegian tankers to load simultaneously at Curacao and 2 at Aruba. (D.of S.T. and C.in C.A.W.I. 2222/4).

New Zealand.

HECTOR - THORSHOV — Request reply to 02152/26/4 from C.N.S.in LEANDER be addressed to C.N.S. Wellington. Repairs to both ships in hand provisionally estimated to complete 21/5. Master of Norwegian THORSHOV holds H.M.S.HECTOR responsible for damage and intends to claim. (C.N.S.Wellington 04462/4).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.
Home Commands.

MONARK Swedish.1786. Under German control, was sunk by SEVERN off the Lister Light. The Master signed a statement that the ship was taken by charter at Stavanger and was forced to proceed to Germany. Crew were transferred to a power boat in a calm sea and SEVERN took the German prize crew of 5 on board. (D.C.N.S.)

Mediterranean

SALZBURG Left Braila for Russia 3/5 (Galatz 1325/4)

ATLAS At Barcelona, have steam up, and are rumoured to be landing cargo
BELLONA and ready to sail night 4/5. (I.C.044.1/40)

South Atlantic

MONTEVIDEO According to Press report of 3/5, the German appeal against Schroder's attachment of MONTEVIDEO at Rio Grande,Brazil,has succeeded. The Brazilian naval authorities have not yet been informed officially and maintain guard on board.(I.C.,044.1/40).

WAR DIARY SECRET. 4.5.40
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

SAN TIBERCIO Mined, Sunk — British, 5995 tons, struck a mine at 2005/4, 4 miles S.E. of Tarbet Ness, Moray Firth, and sunk at 2137/4. Was in ballast, not degaussed. A/S trawler LEICESTER CITY was escorting her, from Scapa to Invergordon, but she was not in convoy. Crew saved. (LEICESTER CITY 2010/4, 2020/4, R.A. Invergordon 2145/4, C.in C. Rosyth 2147/4) Master of SAN TIBERCIO and Captain of LEICESTER CITY report they consider ship undoubtedly sunk by magnetic mine. (R.A. Invergordon 2340/4) (I.C.0441/ says "mined or torpedoed").

Submarines Reported.

Believed dispositions:-

One off Bleksvaer, 66° 43' N., 12° 50' E. Several more seem to be passing down the North Sea Homeward bound (I.C.0440/40) (D.D.I.C.1202/4)

1205 57° 20' N., 3° 00' E., 255° The Naze 140e, position indefinite.

1334 56° 10' N., 2° 30' E., 120° Buchan Ness 165°, position indefinite.

1638 58° N., 2° E., 076° Buchan Ness 140', position indefinite.

1537 55° 30' N., 2° E., 041° Flamborough Head 105', reliable position.

2215 Outside "Bliksvaer" (? Blekvaer, 66° 43' N., 12° 50' E., Norwegian report, course N.

0100 53° 00'N., 05° 35' W., about 15 m.E. from Wicklow Head. Reported by a merchant ship, doubtful. MONTROSE ordered to attack. (C.in C.W.A. 1139/4, 1301/4).

1713 My 1713 (reported S/M) Sweep out Carnarvon Bay on passage. (C.in C.W.A.1906/4 to BULLDOG)

1120 D.F. reliable position, unknown enemy unit, probable U-boat, 55° 20' N., 2° 20' E., (D.D.I.C.1238/4)

1500 Periscope sighted by Commodore of HGF 28A Convoy, 140° Portland Bill 35* (C.in C.W.A. 2231/4)
* ARABIS ordered to position.

2301 54° 30' N., 4° 40' E., 310° Borkum 90', position reliable

WAR DIARY SECRET

4.5.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines Attacked.

1515 ARABIS, Corvette, attacking contact in 50°04' N., 02° 45' W. 203° Portland Mil 29'. WOLFHOUND joining ARABIS.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1749/4) (I.C.0441/40)

War Diary

5.5.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

Narvik Area.

Enemy air attacks are becoming intensified. The enemy appear to be relying on float-planes for operations in the Northern Areas, F.O., Narvik, considers that fighters on floats would be adequate to counter them, and urges that the Fleet Air Arm or French float planes should be used at once to cover the period till an aerodrime is ready. Mid-June has been mentioned as the earliest probable date for this aerodrome. EFFINGHAM brought down one, possibly two, enemy aircraft. ENTERPRISE was bombed, but not hit.

Convoy F.P.3 arrived, and the ships have been distributed - 3 French transports carrying Polish Brigade, with BRAZEN, AMAZON and WARWICK, to Tromso; 3 transports with French troops, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA carrying British A/A guns crews, etc. with ZULU, BASILISK and WHIRLWIND, to Tjeldsundet Fiord, in Vest Fiord.

The air liners CARIBOU and CABOT, which landed Rear-Admiral Lyster and his staff at Narvik, were unable to proceed further owing to lack of fuel. While at anchor they were attacked by enemy aircraft at 1845/5, with six casualties, and have been beached at Harstad.

Mosjoen, Mo, Bodo Area.

Mo and Mosjoen are occupied by our forces, and MOHAWK and ROYAL ULSTERMAN are returning to Scapa. Reinforcements to Mo and Mosjoen are on the way.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command ceased offensive operations in Norway until further orders. All aircraft are being kept in reserve against the event of hostilities breaking out in the Low Countries.

War Diary 5.5.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report (contd.)

Enemy Air Activity

Activity in the Narvik area, as indicated in para 1, became more intense during the day. A number of attacks were made by enemy float planes.

120 enemy troop carrying aircraft were supposed to be leaving Kastrup aerodrome, Copenhagen, for the Narvik area on the morning of May 5, but no further report confirmed this movement.

An enemy aircraft crossed the East Coast at Hull shortly after dark and was later reported to have been located over Bradford and Fleetwood. It returned on an easterly course and passed over Whitby before midnight. It is assumed that this aircraft may have visited Ireland in the course of its flight.

Submarine Activity - British.

NARWHAL reported that when in the Kattegat on the afternoon of May 1 she sighted an escorted convoy of 10 merchant vessels each of about 3,000 tons. She fired six torpedoes and heard four definite explosions. 75 depth charges were dropped, but the only damage apparently was to NARWHAL's periscope.

SEAL reported herself filling with water owing to damage from a mine or depth charge, and was making for Goteborg, Sweden.

Troops from Norway.

A large convoy of transports carrying the troops from Norway left Scapa for the Clyde, escorted by 4 British and 3 French destroyers.

German Merchantmen

There is still considerable speculation about the possible sailings of German merchantmen from various ports. It is again pointed out that for want of dry-docking, their speed is much reduced.

War Diary

5.5.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Situation Report (contd.)

U-Boat Campaign and Mining

While there is no change in the situation generally, it is considered that preparations are being made for a further wave of activity, in which mines will be dropped extensively along the East Coast by aircraft, and that U-boats will be employed in mine-laying in West Coast areas, and also for attacks on surface craft, to the North and North-West.

Home Fleet

General Signal — ~~Owing to~~ During the last 3 weeks you have been engaged upon two of the most difficult operations of war that naval forces are required to undertake. You may be proud that you have carried out these operations with the loss at sea of only about 12 officers and men of the Army in the face of heavy air attack. I am proud to command a Fleet that has shown itself capable of meeting the heavy demands made upon it with such determination and success. (C. in C., H.F., 1200/5).

Movements

18th C.S. — Flag of R.A. 18 transferred to SOUTHAMPTON at 0800/5. (R.A.18, 0802/5).

A/A Ships — Flag of R.A.C., A/A Ships, to be hoisted in COVENTRY 7/5 and struck in CARLISLE. (C. in C., H.F., 1540/5).

Scapa — Progress report - guns, balloons, hutting, booms, etc. (R.A. Scapa, 1222/5).

Submarines — Positions 0600/6. (D.C., 1918/5).

French Destroyers — If French contre-torpilleurs MILAN, TARTU and CHEVALIER PAUL proceed to Brest request communication retings in all ships and Comdr. Ruck-Keene in TARTU may be disembarked before sailing, also that signal publications and charts be withdrawn and kept ready for re-issue if ships return. (R.A.(D) 2221/5)

War Diary

5.5.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik

R.-Admiral Lyster — CARIBOU left Invergordon 0045/5 with Rear Admiral Lyster and staff and 4 R.A.F. passengers for Bodo. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0126/5 to F.O. Narvik).

Flying Boats Attacked — Hear from Wing Comdr. Atcherley that both his flying boats heavily attacked today. Both now beached, six casualties, none dead. Expect bombing attack shortly to demolish planes. Names of machines CABOT and CARIBOU. (F.O., Narvik, 1503/5).

Enemy Reports — Reported that 120 troop carrying aircraft leave Denmark early today, Sunday, for Narvik. Also that land mines have been laid in and around Narvik. Reliability of reports cannot be assumed. (D.D.I.C. 0720/5)(British Minister, Stockholm, 1918/4, 0145/5).

Ice Conditions — Gulf of Bothnia free of ice as far north as Kvarken. Ice clearing very rapidly. Reports from Sweden indicate that Lulea is likely to be open to navigation about 15/5. (D.N.I. to F.O., Narvik, 2225/5).

Harstad — 2 catamarans required for trawler. (N.O.I.C. Harstad 0935/5).

Float Planes — Lieut. Holford reports Harstad eminently suitable for float planes. Depot ship not immediately necessary but no facilities are available for major repairs. (R.A., Narvik, 1040/5). Request for MANELA (D.N.A.D. to Air Min., 1709/5).

Fuel — No oil fuel remaining at Skjel Fiord. Coal at Balmaha 800 tons. (PENELOPE, 1044/5).

Bardu Fosa — Extensions may take 2 months. New site located at Skaanland. Details of work required. (Wing Comdr. Atcherley, 0045/5).

War Diary

5.5.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Narvik (contd.)

Base Staff — Personnel required for Narvik, Harstad, Lodingen, and Skaanland. (F.O. Narvik, 1907/5).

Stores — Your 1214/3. Stores for Adm. Stephenson's party should be merged into stock for use as required. (D.O.D.(H) to F.O. Narvik, 1827/5).

DIANA — Left Skjel Fiord 2300/4 with 14 sick and wounded ex Gravdal Hospital and with oiler ALDERSDALE for Scapa. (PENELOPE, 0246/5).

Fighter Patrol Needed. — As bombing of Harstad and Narvik is becoming much intensified should be grateful for a fighter patrol over area as soon as possible. Large transports will be unloading in Lavangj Fiord 6/5. (F.O. Narvik, 2002/5).
Fighter aircraft should be operated over Narvik area tomorrow if this is in any way possible. (D.O.D.(H) to V.A.A., 2339/5).

CAIRO — Request CAIRO be sailed for Narvik area to work under F.O., Narvik. (C. in C., H.F. to C. in C., Rosyth, 2103/5).

A/S Forces — Anti-submarine trawlers at Skjel Fiord, Ofot Patrol, Bogen Patrol and Harstad (PENELOPE, 1027/4 recd. 1721/5).

Mosjoen - Mo - Bodo

German Tanks etc. — From War Office to VETERAN for Col. Gubbins (on board ROYAL SCOTSMAN) - Reliable information shows that small number of German tanks might be able to use road Grong-Mo. In addition, while snow lasts ski troops can operate anywhere between road and Swedish frontier. Cover is good. Local Norwegian troops probably fishermen rather than skiers. Narrowest part and easiest to hold probably eastwards from Hemnes (south of Mo.) Important that no ferries from Elsfiord to Hemnes should be available for Germans if they succeed in getting tanks or vehicles up the road.(2152/5).

Enemy Aircraft — Take no further action with my 1110 (not received in Adty.) Enemy aircraft have left Bodo. (PENELOPE, 1441/5).

War Diary

5.5.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Namsos Evacuations

British

British force evacuated from Namsos sailed in transports REINA DEL PACIFICO and DUCHESS OF ATHOL. Returns from ships show total of 192 officers, 2,520 ratings and other ranks excluding some 30 casualties in hospital ships. Naval personnel include R.M. Howitzer Battery, whose guns are in GRIFFIN, and survivors of BITTERN, AFRIDI, and trawlers ST. DORAN, ASTON VILLA and GAUL. Other passengers 25 members of British Red Cross Unit. (C. in C. H.F., 2348/5).

French

French Force ex Namsos totalled approx. 3,020 Disposition in transports not known as French staff officers failed to report before sailing. Approx. figures:- DOUMER, 1040; D'JENNE, 320; EL DJEZAIR, 300; EL KANTARA, 260; EL MANSOUR, 1090. (C. in C., H.F. 2346/5).

Allied Submarines

TRITON

Reports 1st May, Hudson aircraft brought down into sea by 2 Messerschmitts off Imsa. Attempt to rescue crew forestalled by float plane. 3rd May, two M.V. sighted on passage from Karmsund to Kvidso, out of torpedo range. No surface patrols in Skudesnes Fiord and infrequent float plane patrols. Swept with asdic (MDU not fitted) for mines south of Imsa at entrance to Haasteens Fiord. Nothing detected at 2,000 yards. Dutch trawler DELFT investigated in position 58:01 N., 01:21 E., apparently genuine, fitted with W/T and D.F. (S.2, 1120/5).

Convoys, Norway

BALZAC)
CALUMET)

Adty. 1526/1 and 1503/3. Ships required at Narvik soon as possible. Should it be found that convoy is held back by META, latter should be detached with ore of the escorting destroyers. (D.D.O.D., 1822/5).

H.K.1

Programme for oiler BRITISH GOVERNOR at Tromso, etc., (C. in C., H.F., 2104/5).

War Diary

5.5.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Iceland - Operation Fork.

BERWICK, GLASGOW — BERWICK to sail for the Clyde at 1600/5, route via the Minches. Speed of advance 18 knots. On arrival to take GLASGOW under orders and carry out operation Fork in accordance with Adty. 1903/4 and any further instructions received. On return from this duty, BERWICK will be taken in hand for refit and turbine repairs, further signal about which will be made. (C. in C., H.F., 1157/5).

W/T — My 1903/4. Operation Fork. 2 W/T rations with 2 general purpose aircraft W/T sets with petrol generators from Signal School, Portsmouth, are to accompany force. (D.S.D. 1812/5).

M.N.B.D.O. — Special train arrangements. Personnel from M.N.B.D.O. is now 7 officers and 124 other ranks. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2113/5).

Dutch Coast

GALATEA) ARETHUSA) — May at your discretion be based on Dover. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., Nore, 1929/5).

Only 1 ship can be berthed at Dover at A buoy. Second could be berthed at Eastern Arm but is not recommended. (V.A., Dover, 2215/5).

As 2 cruisers have now been allocated to Nore Command, request information whether any arrangements that can be brought into force immediately whereby British and Dutch warships can establish their identity to each other. Recognition signal also necessary. Without such arrangements, operation of British naval forces on Dutch Coast would be very hazardous. Also essential to know the position of the Dutch minefields. (C. in C., Nore, 2208/5).

X.D. — Operation X.D. Port of embarkation of forces concerned has been changed from Chatham to Dover. Amended general idea and instructions will be forwarded. (D.O.D.(H) 1522/5 to C. in C., Nore, etc.).

War Diary

5.5.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity

Reconnaissance — Of Oslo Roads. 5 stationary ships seen. Reported not warships, but apparently armed as 1 aircraft sustained damage from flak fire. (H.Q., B.C., 0600/5, 1530/5).

Bunde Fiord, south of Oslo, 15 merchant ships anchored along the shore. (H.Q.B.C. 2350/5).

Security Patrol — By Wellingtons (H.Q.B.C., 0026/6, 0245/6, 0250/6, 0500/6).

Tasks for 6/5 — Reconnaissance tasks for 6/5 in Norwegian waters. (Donibristle, 1655/5).
1 Hudson to reconnoitre Esbjerg (Bircham Newton, 1550/5).
Patrols for 6/5 (H.Q. Coastal Command, 1520/5).

Patrol Vessels Attacked — At 0427, aircraft bombed 2 patrol vessels in 55:00 N., 7:08 E. (43 West of List), but apparently scored no hits. (I.C., 0442/40).

British Aircraft

GLORIOUS, Hurricane Trials — Adty. 2010/2, 2012/2 and 1919/4. Intend to proceed as soon as there is sufficient wind to carry out deck landing trials with 1 Hurricane off Prestwick. Believed in GLORIOUS that without landing hooks Hurricanes ~~unless~~ in the hands of most experienced and skilful deck landing pilots will fail to make the deck. Observing that embarkation period is now extended till Saturday 11/5, suggest Hurricanes be crated and hoisted on board and re-erected. Forthis purpose additional Hurricane personnel would be required on board. GLORIOUS can stow 28 Hurricanes erected in the hangars in addition to 6 Gladiators and 6 Swordfish for ship's defence. (GLORIOUS, 1049/5).

Decided not possible to fly Hurricanes onto GLORIOUS. Now necessary to remove wings and hoist on board. (Air Min. 1815/5, D.N.A.D., 1708/5).

War Diary

5.5.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air (contd.)

British Aircraft

Recognition Markings — To be painted on all F.A.A. aircraft. (Hd. of Air Branch. 1353/5) (see 4/5).

Enemy Air Activity

H.Q. C.C. 1700/5.

Enemy aircraft carried out reconnaissances and offensive action in the Narvik area during the morning, with but little success.
Surface craft were also shadowed and attacked - from enemy reports these attacks were carried out on transports and naval craft, but without success.
There was also considerable activity of troop-carrying aircraft. It was first reported that 120 machines were leaving Denmark for some destination in Norway. Whilst this report cannot be confirmed, there has certainly been much movement between Western Germany to Norwegian areas of military importance. Aircraft on this service leave their bases, and, en route to their destinations, used Aalborg and Copenhagen (dependent upon the locality in Germany from which the troops are being carried), Oslo, and Trondheim, as intermediate stations.
The usual daily meteorological flight was active over the Southern North Sea, and Northern Dutch Coast. (H.Q., C.C., 1700/5).

EFFINGHAM — Brought down 1 and possibly 2 enemy aircraft. (V.C.N.S.).

ENTERPRISE — Unsuccessfully bombed, 2 casualties caused by a near miss. (V.C.N.S.)

5.5.1940
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Mines Exploded. Paddle minesweepers report 2 mines exploded in sweeps, 1 mine swept (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2200/5).

Guns. My 2017/3. Two Oerlikon guns should be fitted in each trawler. (D.M.S. to A.C.O.S. 1146/5) (Refers to RUNSWICK BAY and SATA).

Minelaying. Operation D.M.L. 9 line D. two completed. (V.A. Dover, 1829/5 1949/5).
Operation B.3.2. postponed 24 hours owing to fog. (PRINCESS VICTORIA, 1920/5).

Mines Exploded. One in Tees Bay, one near Boulogne.
Three moored mines out off Norfolk Coast.
(V.C.N.S., 245).

Submarine Minelaying Programme. My 1859/4, minelaying programme for NARWHAL, SEAL and PORPOISE. Propose A be cancelled, B be carried out by NARWHAL about 10/5, and C remain unchanged. Now preferred that both B and C should be floodersa. (V.A.S. 1018/5) Approved (D.D.C.D.(M) 1905/5).

Enemy Intelligence.

Aircraft for Narvik. (See Narvik).

Transport. D.F. at 0932 B.38, unidentified enemy unit, probably transport, 57°40'N., 10°30'E, unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1049/5).

Enemy Ships. A/c reports at 0510/5 1 cruiser observed in L.S.J.V. 4113, stationary (this is doubtful I.C.0441/40); 4 large merchant ships about 7,000 tons in Norderney Harbour; 20 - 30 small vessels in harbour E. of Heligoland. (C. in C. Nore, 0921/5).

Oslo. At 0100, 5 merchant ships were reported by A/c in the entrance to Oslo Roads (I.C.0441/40).

5.5.1940
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (Continued).

Oslo (Continued). At 0040, 12 merchant ships were repoted by A/c anchored off Bygdo, Oslo, some apparently armed (I.C.0442/40). At 0054, 15 merchant ships were reported by A/c anchored in Bunde Fiord, south of Oslo (I.C.0442/40).

Submarine Traps. Norwegian Naval authorities at Tromso report Germans in Trondheim have placed large orders for floating buoys with Ornes Mechanical Workshop and also wire nets. They presume this means preparation of submarine traps on a large scale. (F.O. Narvik, 1422/5).

Shipping.

Convoys. Situation 2000/5 (C. in C. W.A. 1352/5)
Ocean Convoys, positions (D.C. 1814/5).

Ports Open. Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne are now open to all traffic also Hartlepool and Tees, after intense sweeping. Blyth is still closed. (V.C.N.S.245).

Miscellaneous.

Solent Traffic Control. Admiralty letter M.05927/40 of 16/4/40. Considered essential to institute a more stringent form of traffic control in Solent forthwith. Hulk urgently required fitted with gate signals, R/T and detecting apparatus. Old trawler unfit for sea would meet requirements (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2343/4, recd. 1310/5)

WEATHER.

0600 B.S.T.	Wind.	Visibility.	Outlook.
North Sea.	Light, variable in W., moderate easterly in E.	Poor to moderate in W., good in E.	Similar.
Channel.	Light, northerly.	Poor to moderate.	Similar.

5.5. 1940.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

WEATHER (Continued).

0600 B.S.T.	Wind.	Visibility.	Outlook.
W. Approaches	N.W. Moderate.	Good	Sea fog, becoming widespread.
Horns Reef.	No reports, probable easterly fresh.	Moderate to good.	Similar.
W. Coast Norway.	Light, southerly	Good, mist in fiords.	Freshening winds.

Contraband Control - Sweden. Importance of allowing Swedish ships through the blockade with goods of purely Swedish origin destined for neutral countries, especially North and South America and return of such ships to Swedish ports with goods such as coal and phosphates which are necessary for Swedish economy (Mr. Mallet (Stockholm) No. 474 5/5).

Soviet pressure on Estonia to grant them long lease of islands (?Nai)ssaar, Karl and Aigna which command entrance to Tallinn (Mr. Le Rougetel (Moscow) No. 197 5/5)

WAR DIARY.

SECRET.

5.5.1940.
Sunday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.
(25 miles W. by N. of Goteburg)

SEAL — My position MBAQ 4711. Submarine filling with water, stern to 129 bulkhead, caused by mine or depth charge. F.D.7 laid in 57°33'30" N., 11° 35' 30" E. Confidential books destroyed. No casualties. Am making for Swedish coast and will try for Goteborg. (SEAL,0150/5) Was employed on minelaying operation in the entrance to the Kattegat.

FAULKNOR — Have struck wreck/Rombak Fiord, 68° 27.1' N., 17° 38.7' E. No damage except A/S dome and directing gear out of action. Ship requires docking (Capt. (D) 8, 1714/5).

HUNTER. — (Sunk Narvik 10/4). 43 survivors interned at Gunnarn, in Vasterbotten, North Sweden. (Stockholm received 2053/5.)

ULYSSES. — Reported refloated after grounding. (Press telegram 1245/6)

EAST INDIES.

COCKCHAFER. — Fractured port propeller shaft and lost propeller. Is being towed from Bombay to Basra by H.M.I.S. HINDUSTAN (C. in C.E.1 07582/5)

WAR DIARY.

5.5.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

COMORIN. Has been transferred to America and West Indies Station in accordance with your 2155/13/4 and my 1005/18/4 and no action to comply with your 1234/4 can be taken by C. in C.S.A. (C. in C.S.A. to Admiralty 1400/5)

China.

Japanese Training Squadron. Japanese Naval Attache, London, informed that Admiralty regret that in present circumstances not possible to accord to Japanese Training Squadron such facilities and entertainment as this occasion would demand, and that visit would better be postponed for present. (Hd. of M. 1009/5 to C. in C. China).

East Indies.

RANCHI Ref. C. in C.E.1's 1747Z/2 (RANCHI to proceed to Mombasa). Ship arrived 0600/5. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 0321/5).

U.S.2. Convoy sailing telegram. Escort, RAMILLIES, KENT and SUFFREN (N.C.S.O. Colombo 0005Z/5).

American and West Indies Station.

HX41. In view of abnormal number of ships Vice Commodore and staff should be sailed from Halifax with this convoy. (D.T.D. to C.O.A.C. Halifax 1549/5).

5.5.1940.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

North Atlantic.

RUDOLF ALBRECHT. Tanker, expected to sail shortly from St. Miguel, Azores (I.C., 0442/40)

America and West Indies.

ESTE
HENRY HORN Still under embargo at Curacao. HENRY HORN received 50 tons of Diesel oil and 50 tons of gas oil on 29/4. (S.O.I. Kingston 1128/5)

China.

FRIEDERUN. At Menado, Celebes Islands, has been reattached at the instance of a British firm.

WAR DIARY.

5.5.40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/M's Reported.

Estimated dispositions. No reliable indications of any changes. (D.D/C 1159/5).

0005 Suspicious schooner rigged vessel possibly disguised S/M reported off Castle Bay Basse 0005 to-day. (C. in C. Rosyth 0229/5)

0825 Entrance to R. Ems, reliable position (I.C.0441/40)

1045 A/C reported periscope 57° 15' N., 01° 56' W. (off Aberdeen) (C. in C. Rosyth 1222/5) 1 Anson ordered to attack (Donibristle, 1250/5)

1427 By A/C JSHN 4404. Large patch oil with heavy scum. No size of U-boat (H.Q.C.C.1700/5)

1106 S/M reported at Buvaagen, 68° 09' N., 15° 27' E. (PENELOPE, 1106/5).

1603 Norwegian report, 1 S/M observed outside Moholman, West Fiord. 68° 09' N., 14° 25' E. (PENELOPE 1631/5)

2030 Report from trawlers (doubtful) 55° 42' N., 07° 24'W., 25 m. N.N.W. from Malin Head, Co. Donegal (343° Tuishtyahull 18').

0515 By WESTON, further attack in daylight (no position given) No results.(WESTON 0515/5).

2133 VALENTINE attacked contact possible S/M 3 patterns no sign on surface in position 52° 07' N., 1° 52' E. WESTON to remain until further orders, VALENTINE proceeding with convoy. (VALENTINE, 2133/5) Asdic operator reports water discharge noise 3 seconds duration at 2139. (VALENTINE, 0951(6) Doubtful (I.C.0442/40)

War Diary

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report.

Narvik Area

In a signal to F.O., Narvik, at noon, V.A.A. indicated the necessity of refuelling his destroyers. PENELOPE reported that no oil fuel remains at Skjel Fiord, and the oiler BROOMDALE, part of Convoy H.K.1, is not expected to arrive for another day.

The flying boat CABOT was refloated, but enemy aircraft located and destroyed it at 0110/6. CABOT and CARIBOU must now both be written off.

FAME has relieved Capt. (D) 8 as Senior Officer of destroyers in the West Fiord area. The following are present under his orders - ZULU, BEDOUIN, WHIRLWIND, BASILISK, VANSITTART, WARWICK and BLYSKAWICA. FAULKNOR (damaged), HESPERUS and WREN sailed for the United Kingdom.

BALSAC and COXWOLD, of Convoy N.S.2, with stores on the way to Narvik, grounded in the Minches during the night of 6th, but were refloated and ordered to Scapa and Loch Eire respectively.

Mosjoen - Mo Area.

A report from the Norwegian Legation in Stockholm stated that German motorised troops were already in Mo, and that over 100 troop-carrying planes had proceeded towards Narvik. It was also reported that neither the railway from Namsos to Mosjoen nor the road were destroyed, nor prepared for demolition.

Enemy air activity.

Little important activity. Coastal patrols off the Norwegian coast appeared to be maintained, and there were indications of enemy air reconnaissance during the forenoon in Narvik area, German air activity is increasing and the enemy appears to shadow movements of our surface vessels continually.

There was continued troop carrying activity by enemy aircraft operating from air bases in Denmark to points in Norway. It is thought that supplies and reinforcements are being conveyed by this means to the enemy in Narvik. (I.C., 0443/40).

British Air Activity

Usual patrols were flown.

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report (contd.)

A/A Armament.

A report from R.A.(D), Home Fleet dated 5/5 states that the A/A armament of destroyers must be considered inadequate for modern needs. Four additional Oerliken guns would at least enable destroyers to fire at more than one aircraft at a time. C. in C., Home Fleet, to-day made further recommendations on this subject, stating that if necessary a portion of the torpedo or low-angle gun armament of destroyers must be sacrificed. (V.C.N.S. 246).

Movements

Escort of French ships — to Brest. Admiral MONTCALM concurs in 1235/5 (C. in C., H.F. 1727/6).

Admiralty Oilers — for Scapa not to be delayed awaiting escort. To be sailed independently if necessary. (D.T.D., 1811/6).

Operations - Narvik.

CAIRO — To proceed Narvik, route. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1103/6).

Fuel — No oil fuel remaining Skjel Fiord. Coal in BALMAIA unloading. (PENELOPE, 0943/6).

A.L.C.'s — Beg that all available A.L.C's. up to 12 may be sent immediately direct to Narvik and that I may be informed if and when they may be expected. (F.O. Narvik, 1209/6). Your 1209/6. All effective A.L.C.'s and M.L.C.'s were sent you in CYCLOPS and EMPIRE ABILITY. No more available until about third week in May. (D.O.D.(H)/6).

Minefield — Adty. 0017/2. Intend to lay surface minefield to protect southern entrance of Tjeldsundet and Ofot Fiords (details). (R.A., Narvik, 1430/6, 1435/6).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Narvik (contd.)

Base Staffs — At Harstad, Lodingen etc. Re. 0026/1, 2301/1 (F.O., Narvik, 1907/5).

CALCUTTA
PENELOPE — To sail when ready to Skjel Fiord to provide A.A. protection to the westward as far as long. 01° E. if practicable to PENELOPE who may be ready to sail 8/5 probably in tow of BANDIT and BUCCANEER and also for similar portion of route to Convoy N.S.2. Return to Scapa on completion, affording A.A. protection to any convoy that may be sailing from Narvik area at that time. (C. in C., H.F., 1542/6).

Request PENELOPE sailed as soon as possible with escort of 4 destroyers. (C. in C., H.F. 1608/6).

Bardufoss Aerodrome — For air Min. from Wing Comdr. Atcherley:- Norwegian Army Squadron insists on sharing Bardufoss. Apart from congestion consider this most undesirable. Tension resulting from evacuation of south still exists. Norwegian staff suggest we reform and re-equip their Army Squadrons in England immediately. Consider excellent solution. (F.O. Narvik, 1545/6).

COVENTRY — To sail 8/5 to Sullom Voe to refuel and thence to Narvik area following route ordered for CHOBRY. If this ship overtaken, remain to give her A.A. protection to destination and then as required by F.O., Narvik. (C. in C., H.F., 1620/6).

Harstad, Float-planes — Your 1040/5. Is it possible to operate floatplanes from beaches at Harstad or must they be moored out. (D.N.A.D. 1808/6 to R.A., Narvik).

Operation BISHOP — My 2015/1. Now confirmed that 18 Rocs and 9 Swordfish as float planes and 6 Walrus will form the force, together with approx. 60 officers and 400 men. Force will operate from Harstad initially. Arrangements for stores and ammunition. Flying and squadrons maintenance personnel and aircraft sail in GLORIOUS on 12/5, remainder of personnel in MANELA on 11/5. Reserve aircraft leave in FOSSBECK about 15/5. MANELA as accommodation ship. Code name of this operation is BISHOP. (D.N.A.D. 1939/6).

War Diary

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Narvik (contd.)

Composition of force to operate from Harstad (D.N.A.D. 1939/6). Adty. 1808/6.
Float planes must be moored out. (F.O., Narvik, 2317/6).

Bardu Foss Aerodrome — In view of reports on Bardu Foss it has now been decided to transport F.A.A. floatplanes force in GLORIOUS, sailing as soon after 12/5 as possible. FURIOUS will be required to transport an R.A.F. Gladiator Squadron of 16 as soon as ready. FURIOUS will proceed to northward of Narvik and be ready t o land Gladiators as soon as aerodrome is reported ready for use. If it is subsequently decided to transport a Hurricane squadron, the aircraft will be hoisted on board and not flown on (D.N.A.D. 1810/6 to C. in C., H.F.).

Aircraft approaching Narvik and Harstad — Course to be taken (Air Min. 1725/6).

A.A. Guns — Requesting number of 8-in Oerlikon A.A. guns you could mount in H.M. trawlers in your command (D.T.S.D. to F.O. Narvik, 1950/6).

HILLSEA WOOTTON — Southern Railway car ferries. Inquiring whether they are suitable to make passage to Narvik and take part in operations there (D.O.D.(H) 2009/6 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Local Administration — Requesting arrangements with Norwegian Govt. re policy and administration for billeting, hire of ground, use of trucks, control of labour and payment. (For Mr. Lascells from Foreign Office). (D.O.D.(H) to F.O. Narvik, 2257/6).

Situation — (From War Office for Rupert Force): Intelligence Report to 1800/6. Our appreciation is that Germans are likely to push forward on all preparations with a view to early relief of Narvik and that meanwhile air attacks will continue. (D. of P., 2234/6 to F.O. Narvik).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Narvik (contd.)

Aircraft Carriers — Your 1415/5. Primary patrol area Tjeldsalinden. Subsidiary area (1) Bogen, Narvik, (2) Harstad. Enemy aircraft apparently operate at about 13,000 ft. (F.O. Narvik to V.A.A.C. 0932/6).

Destroyers — FAME has relieved Capt. (D)8 as S.O., Destroyers in West Fiord area. 9 destroyers (including Polish BLYSKAWICA) under his orders. (Capt.(D)8 1700/6).

Convoy — Your convoy is required at Harstad earliest date possible but time of arrival must be 2100. Report first date you can do this. Two batalions are to land here. (F.O. Narvik to ECHO, 1403/6).

Flying Boats Destroyed — Milson, Norway, reports CABOT refloated last night and towed to inconspicuous anchorage but located and destroyed 1100 hours bay side. Request assistance to evacuate crews of CABOT and CARIBOU. Enemy air activity increasing. Enemy intelligence appears good. Reconnaissance proceeding. Requires money for living expenses and transport. Request F.O., Narvik, assist in the evacuation of crews and provide Wilson with £100. (Air Min. to Adty. 1901/6).

Mosjoen - Mo - Bodo.

German Moves — For D.M.I. Norwegian Legation reports German motorised troops already in Mo, and over 100 troop-carrying planes proceeded towards Narvik, some probably carrying food. Norwegian officer from Namsos reports neither railway nor road Namsos-Mosjoen was destroyed nor prepared for demolition. President Hambro has information that 200 German sailors in uniform have arrived Murmansk. He believes another is in preparation to seize Kirkenes where 4,000 men are now employed in iron fields. (Military Attache, Stockholm, no T.O.O., recd. 1745/6).

French Troops — ULSTER PRINCE to embark French troops, approx. 100, recently landed at Mosjoen by JANUS and return them to Clyde. ROYAL SCOTSMAN is also to return to Clyde.

Guns — Request one escorting destroyer now with ULSTER PRINCE and ROYAL SCOTSMAN transfer the 2 Bofors guns, and crews from Mosjoen to.....

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Mosjoen - Mo - Bodo (Contd.)

Guns (contd.) to Mo. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., H.F., etc., 1858/6).

Troops for Bodo ROYAL ULSTERMAN to arrive Leith not later than a.m. 8/5 to embark about 450 troops and 200 tons stores for passage to Bodo, sailing from Leith p.m. 10/5 (D.O.D.(H) 1856/6).

Bodo (Operation SCISSORS)

Troops. To leave Leith about 10/5 in ROYAL ULSTERMAN for Bodo. Total approx. 39 officers 4520 R's 250 tons supplies in same ship or following shortly (D. of P.1809/6, Gen. Massy to Col. Gubbins in ROYAL SCOTSMAN).

Iceland - Operation Fork.

Destroyers 2 destroyers to accompany BERWICK. (C. in C., H.F., 0921/6) FEARLESS and FORTUNE detailed (R.A.D., H.F., 1216/6). Orders to BERWICK (C. in C., H.F., 1009/6).

Aircraft If temporary arrangements for fuelling and maintenance can be made, you should consider leaving one Walrus from BERWICK and one from GLASGOW in Iceland at the disposal of Colonel Sturges. Possible facilities may exist at Vatnagardar near Reykjavik as a seaplane station or at Kaldadarnes, 63:56 N., 21:10 W. as a landing ground. (D.N.A.D., 1935/6).

War Diary

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Submarines

? SEAL

Press report German destroyer disabled British submarine with depth charge at noon 5/5 outside Vinga. Crew of submarine embarked in destroyer which then took submarine in tow and proceeded to southwards. (N.A., Gottenburg. 1217/6).

Patrol Positions

My 1524/6. Submarines are to proceed patrol positions as follows:-

STURGEON,	between	latitude	53:40	and	53:30.
TRIAD,	"	"	53:30	"	53:20.
CALYPSO (Fr.)	"	"	53:20	"	53:10.
SNAPPER	"	"	53:10	"	53
SEAWOLF	"	"	53	"	52:50.
SHARK	"	"	52:50	"	52:40.

STURGEON to operate in A 5 West of 04:10 E., TRIAD, CALYPSO, SNAPPER, SEAWOLF, SHARK to operate East of 04° E. French submarines AMAZONE and DORIS to operate between lat. 53:10 and 53, and 53 and 52:50 respectively, and between long. 03:15 E. and 03:50 E. Submarines operating in 8 positions referred to above are not to attack other submarines unless definitely known to be hostile, and attacks are to be confined to enemy warships, merchant ships only being attacked if they are escorted by enemy warships. (R.A.(S), 1908/6).

Movements

After sunset today, following movements to take place:-

TAKU to MBRU. French submarines LA SIBYLLE and ANTIOPE to Harwich route as ordered by Capt. S.10. French CALYPSO to H.1.
TRIAD from Rosyth to Northern half of N.2, SNAPPER to southern half of H.2, STURGEON to A.5. (R.A.(S), 1524/6, Capt.(S)10, 1701/6).

Positions

0600/7 (D.C. 1945/6, V.A.S. 1819/6).

War Diary

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys - Norway.

N.S.2	Sailed 0230 for Narvik - MASHOBRA, BALZAC, CALUMET, COTSWOLD, escorted by JAVELIN, JACKAL, BRESTOIS and BOULONNAIS. Route. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0239/6).

WAR DIARY. 6th May, 1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air

British Air Activity.

Esbjerg	Reconnaissance report (A.C.H.Q.Chatham 0740/6)
Stavanger	Heavy attack to be made on Stavanger aerodrome tonight with object of reducing likely scale of attack on Narvik. Security patrols and "G" reconnaissance should continue. (Air Ministry to Bomber Cmd. 1225/6)
Security Patrol.	By Wellingtons. (H.Q.,B.C.0026/6, 0250/6, 0500/6)
NURNBERG cruiser to be attacked.	See Enemy Intelligence.
Balloon barrage, Scapa Flow.	At present much too thin. Proposals. (A.C.O.S.1141/6)
Air Searches	For 7/5 (C.in C.Rosyth 1930/6.
M/O.D.1145/40	Proposed that a/c's of 821 or 823 Sqdns. carry out this operation (Head of M.1849/6)
"WINKLE"	F/206 on "WINKLE" reports no enemy activity observed (Chatham A.C.H.Q.0718/6)
Re 1400/28/4	Second combat reported; one of our a/c's shot down (GLORIOUS 1600/6)

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy a/c's destroyer.	Reports received show that in last three weeks A.A. gunfire of H.M.Ships has accounted for at least 30 enemy aircraft. This is great improvement on previous results, and if we can double the number of aircraft shot down for the same number of rounds, we shall be well on way to making bombing attacks on ships unprofitable. (1st S.L. 2103/6)

WAR DIARY

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Mining.

Mines found. 1 magnetic mine was exploded off N. Foreland and a total of 8 were found in the Would. Four had been destroyed (VCNS

Narvik operation B.B.2 (See Narvik)
(Extension to the East Coast Mine Barrier) To be carried out 7/5 (PRINCESS VICTORIA 0915/6)

Magnetic Mine Seen to drop approx. 131° Fixed Red Light Inner West Pier one cable. Parachute recovered, divers have so far failed to determine whether mine present (NOIC Blyth 2045/6)

Minelaying Off Sogne Fiord. By PORPOISE. Orders. Date of laying about 1515 (R.A.(S) 0128/6)

Danish Ship Flags. My 1931/2, paragraph 3, should read,"Danish ships being conducted to an Allied port will wear Allied ensign at the fore in addition to Danish flag. After requisitioning or adjudication they will wear Allied flag only". (Hd.of M.1534/6 1535/6)

DELFT Dutch Trawler, asking whether he can confirm that she was fishing near 58° 1'N 1° 21'E on 4/5 (INI 12258/6 to N A Hague)

Permitted countries. Belgium to be added to the list in 1835/21/4 (Hd.of M.1929/6)

Enemy Intelligence.

BERGEN Information from Master of Norwegian ELNAES at Kirkwall who was in Bergen until 4/5. Camouflaged light cruiser on west side of West Pier, one minelayer carrying 2 seaplanes near to North entrance, and seaplane base. Master of Latvian EVERALDA who left Murmansk 28/4 reports a large German ship lying there loaded with phosphates. (C.C.S.O.Kirkwall 2802/6) Possibly the cruiser was the BREMSE (Gunnery training ship) and the minelayer an A/C recovery vessel of HANS ROLSHOVEN type (IC 0443/40)

Convoy attacked by NARWHAL 1825/1, in 57°31'N 11°8E. 10 Merchant ships under surface vessel and air escort. 4 definite explosions heard, perhaps 2 more. NARWHAL was then hunted till 2100, 75 d.C'S; periscope damaged. Enemy shipping and air activity in East Skagerrak and Kattegat in tense 4/5. Escorts are miscellaneous collection of small craft, patrol vessels drop d.C'S at random all day (NARWHAL 1545/5)

Cruiser off Norderney Cruiser of NURNBERG class reported 1915/6 close to Norderney A/C was chased by 1 enemy A/C, so did not attack. Returned to base to report, owing to W/T failure. (Chatham Broadcast 2115/6. If this report is correct, a channell must have been dredged between Norderney and Juist. (I.C.0443/40)

Kiel Canal On 3/5 the Captain of an Estonian vessel was informed the Kiel Canal was closed to neutral shipping (I.C.0442/40)

German lights in Baltic. Germany has broadcast that German lights in Western Baltic west of 12° 25' E will be permanently extinguished and only shown on request. Until further notice no reliance can be placed on the burning of Kielsnor light (S extremity of Langeland). (Scapa W/T 1253/6)

Cruiser to be attacked (See Cruiser off Norderney,above) 19 A/C's to bomb cruiser of NURNBERG class, reported anchored between Norderney and Juist, 5 A/C's to provide guard over target until bombing by first 10 A/C's completed. (ACHQ Chatham 2330/6).

HOME COMMANDS
Miscellaneous.

Scapa Defences Your 1208/2 (provision of A/T baffles to protect fleet anchorage at Scapa). Boom work at Scapa already given increased priority at the expense of other ports. Steps now being taken to keep number of boom vessels up to maximum possible and to despatch additional A/T baffle material from Rosyth. Request you arrange with A.C.O.S the priority to be given to providing protection against submarine, M.T.B. and torpedo bomber attack in order that boom work may proceed accordingly. Meanwhile, presume consideration has been given to possibility of providing some protection to heavy ships by suitable berthing of light craft for A/A fire and auxiliaries as baffles. (D.B.D. to C.in C.,H.F. 1541/6)

AA guns for Lerwick. Ready to sail from Aberdeen pm/10 in HORSA,also 370 military personnel in LOCHNAGAR (D.O.D.(H)1940/6)

German torpedo. 68°27'N 17°3' E.Not yet recovered owing to continual bombing. (Captain D 8 1204/6)

D.C's in A.A. Cruisers. Proposing that depth charges in AA cruisers be disembarked owing to danger in present circumstances of being hit by high velocity splinters.(CARLISLE 1120/6).

WEATHER.

	Wind.	Weather.	Visibility.
North Sea	S.moderate veering W.& N.W., moderate.	Rain spreading from west, showers later.	Generally moderate, improving with wind veer.
Horns Reef.	N.E.Moderate.	Cloudy.	Moderate or good.
Channel.	Light and variable.	Cloudy with some coastal haze at first.	Moderate.
Western Approaches.	N.,moderate.	Cloudy.	Good.
Norwegian Coast. 58° - 64°N.	S.,moderate.	Becoming overcast with rain later.	Moderate.
64° - 70°N.	S.-S.W.light to moderate.	Fine and cloudy.	Good.

WAR DIARY. 6th May, 1940.
Monday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

H.M.S.LOCH NAVER	M/S Trawler, sunk in position 260° from 20 Buoy after collision with unknown ship. Crew safe on board BREDA. (BREDA, 0140/6, 0155/6).
SEAL	See S/M's.
Overdue ships.	The following have arrived:- PATELLA, FRUMENTON, AMBERTON, PETERTON, SCOTTISH TRADER, LANGLEHORSE, STANWELL. (T.D.No.53)

WAR DIARY.

SECRET.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
North Atlantic.

6.5.1940.
Monday.

French Forces. Positions, Convoys and Patrols, 1200/6 (D.C.0453/6)

Ocean Convoys. Positions etc., (D.C.1817/6)

Spanish Ships Your 1316/4, (Spanish armed trawler escorting Spanish merchant ships CASTILLO FIGUERAS and CASTILLO COCA). Under present political conditions it was considered inadvisable to carry out this procedure. Both vessels are normally engaged in coastal trade only. CASTILLO FIGUERAS entered Ceuta and subsequently arrived Algeciras (F.O.C.N.A., 1024/6 to Admiralty).

Fuel, U.S. Ships Fuel from Admiralty; stocks may be supplied to U.S.A. warships if a request is received. (D. of Stores to F.O.C.N.A., 1806/6)

Mediterranean.

C. in C. Flag of C. in C. Mediterranean, has been transferred to a ship of the 1st Battle Squadron, at Alexandria. Cancel my 1715/2 (transfer of office from Malta to Alexandria) as from 0800/6 (C. in C. Mediterranean, 0127/6)

Positions

RESOURCE, STUART, VAMPIRE, 32°N 29°E to Alexandria.
WATERHEN, VENDETTA, VOYAGER, 36°N 16°E to Malta.
OTUS, OLYMPUS, 36°N 15°E to Malta.
WARSPITE, VELOX, VORTIGERN, KEPPEL, 36°N 2°W to Alexandria.
DOUGLAS, WRESTLER, 36°N 4° W to Gibraltar.
(D.C.0945/6)

Spanish Fleet. Composition and distribution (D.N.A. Madrid 1921/6).

French Battleships.

Our decision that as the situation had not deteriorated WARSPITE was to proceed straight through to Alexandria has led to a slight misunderstanding with the French, which, however, I now feel sure has been cleared up satisfactorily.

6.5.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS. (contd)
Mediterranean. (contd)

French Battleships

You will see from A.M.1315/6 that French do not appear in any hurry for their battleships to return to Western Mediterranean. In order to improve our relations with them and incidentally to improve the state of affairs referred to in paragraph 2 of your 1327/19 I think it most desirable that you should propose some tactical exercises with the French battleships so as to try out the new Allied tactical code. Our attitude should be that we are very grateful to them for having sent their ships East at our urgent request and contrary to their original intentions, and we should not press for their return to Western basin, in spite of the fact that we should like both British and French ships to be at their war stations. (D.O.D.(F) from 1st S.L. to C. in C. Med /6)

East Indies.

U.S.2. Leakage of information of arrival at Ceylon. Arrangements to prevent in future (A.C.N.B. 03167/7)

America and West Indies.

AURANIA. V.A.N.P's 2310/3. Proposed AURANIA sails 13/5 so as to arrive Bermuda 0800/24/5. (D.O.D.(F) 1425/6).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HOME COMMANDS.

VOGESEN	4240 tons, with coal from Stettin to Oslo, reported mined near the Vinga Lighthouse west of Gothenberg, and sunk. Crew landed. (D.S.)
TROYBURG	Going to Karlskrona, Sweden, intercepted message from Karlskrona Radio dated 1120/6 asks whether ship need be lightened or differently trimmed. (I.C.0443/4).
INGO	French Admiralty state she sailed from Venice, 0500/6 in ballast for unknown destination; not camouflaged (I.C.0443/40)

North Atlantic.

RUDOLF ALBRECHT.	At St. Miguel, expected to sail shortly (FOCNA 1352/6).

WAR DIARY

SECRET
6.5.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

s.s. BRIGHTON sunk. British, 5359 tons, from Immingham to Dunkirk with coal, was mined off Gravelines at 1150/6 (D.C.2026/6) and sunk. Crew rescued. She had not been degaussed, and was in a danger area at the time. (V.C.N.S.246).

ALMY Swedish fishing boat, was mined and sunk 0700/6 in same minefield as VOGESEN (see German Merchant Ships). The 4 members of her crew were killed. (D.S.245).

S/M's Reported.

Estimated dispositions:- 1 or 2 in West Fiord.
Possibly 1 in Clyde approaches N. of Inishtrahull. (I.C.0442/40).

Reliable U-boat report in YHPV 4236 at 2030/5. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0842/6). Request immediate air search, as convoy passes this position about 1400 (Capt.(D) 50946/6).

2243 60° 40' N. 1° 30' E. Position indefinite (D.N.I.2311/6).

Situation Report

Evacuated Personnel

SUFFOLK (damaged), with destroyers and the large convoy of ships carrying troops used in the Norwegian campaign arrived at Greenock shortly after midnight 6-7/5.

German landings in the North

Germans are reported at Murmansk, and preparing to land at Kirkenes (M.S.M.)

East coast reinforcement

8 destroyers have been ordered to form a flotilla to reinforce the East coast.

Narvik Area

Distribution of the independent companies in Northern Norway, under the general command of F.O. Narvik.

(a) MO (200 troops arrived 4/5).

(b) Bodo (400 troops when operation is complete under Col. Gubbins with H.Q. probably at Bodo.)

(c) Mosjoen (400 troops and administrative group due shortly, when French troops now there are to be evacuated.)

A report from Stockholm says that Germans are at Mo (M.S.M.) ARK ROYAL commenced operating in Narvik area a.m./7 CURLEW is carrying out A/A duties with her, CALCUTTA and CAIRO are on the way to Narvik for A/A duties in the area. STORK has arrived at Lavangs Fjord.

Situation Report

Iceland Operation Fork

A force consisting of 42 officers and 775 other ranks embarked at Greenock a.m. for Iceland in GLASGOW and BERWICK, escorted by the destroyers FEARLESS and FORTUNE. The force is self-contained and is provided with one month's provisions.

A.M.C. CALIFORNIA of the Northern Patrol was ordered to patrol off the eastern Fjords of Iceland, to forestall any landing of enemy troops by trawlers or other small craft, especially near Seidis Fjord, the landing place of the telegraph cables; R.M. Battalion cannot provide a force to guard the latter.

British Air Activity

19 aircraft left at 0240/7 to bomb an enemy cruiser of the NURNBERG class reported anchored between the Island of Norderney and Juist at 1915/6. The cruiser was sighted and attacked by 5 a/c's which reached their objective, but no hit was obtained. One a/c failed to return.

Aircraft of the Bomber Command laid three mines during the night 6-7/5 and report having shot down one Messerschmidt.

Patrols off the Dutch coast and East of Orkneys and Shetlands were flown 7/5

Enemy air activity

Further troop transport activity is reported; Hamburg, Berlin, Oslo, and Trondheim being mentioned. Copenhagen has also been reported as an intermediate landing ground. Weather appears to have hampered this and other enemy air activity. A report suggests that work of some nature, possibly repairs, is in progress on Aalborg aerodrome (H.Q.C.C. 1722/7).

War Diary

7.5.40.
Tuesday

Situation Report

Experience gained in enemy air attacks (R.A. Vivian, quoted in M.S.M.)

Officers and men are being sent to hospital with neurasthenia, owing to the effect of continual bombing on personnel already tired out. Bombing on men who are fresh does not have the same effect.

During attacks a high relative wind should be maintained. AFRIDI was hit after a turn away down wind.

The dive bombing methods of the JU 87 can only be effectively countered by pom-poms in the ship being attacked. Barrage fire from other ships is not helpful, though their pom-pom fire may be.

Ships should operate in company, as one ship does not give a sufficient volume of fire to break up high level bombing or formations before they dive.

The Norwegian fjords restrict ships so greatly that operations such as those carried out at Namsos and Aandalsnes should not normally be attempted. The reasons for ordering the A/A ships to remain at these ports was to keep the enemy high and support the army.

The need for improving Aares is very great. R.D.F. is of very high value.

It is vital that enemy shadowing a/c's should be shot down before they can summon their bombers on the target.

War Diary

7.5.40
Tuesday

Situation Report

Mining

The clearance of the Would continues.

Magnetic mines were exploded in Blyth and the port was reopened at 1900/7. Magnetic mines were also exploded in Margate Roads and Swansea, and a moored mine was cut 15 miles E. of the Goodwins.

Operation B.S.2. was completed.

Danish fishing vessels

Several Danish fishing vessels were reported about 150 miles East of the Yorkshire coast a.m./7. Two corvettes were sent to bring in any found there to the Humber. Two other captured Danish trawlers are being escorted to Aberdeen.

Mediterranean

The Mediterranean is partly reopened to shipping, reversion to normal routes being gradually applied. The closing of the Mediterranean has had considerable political effect.

POLICY

Experience of ships in central Norway operations has been that it is vitally important that ships should never be stopped whilst being bombed. (1st S.L. 1917/7 to F.O. Narvik).
Asking that Norwegian Govt. will instruct local authorities in areas not occupied by Germans to furnish Allied forces with any information re. German movements etc. Does not appear that this is being done at present. (F.O. 2256/7 to Mr. Lascelles, Norway.)

War Diary

7. 5. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

C.S.2o. in COVENTRY — with CHROBRY (C. in C. Rosyth 1211/7)

Operations

General

Destroyers to reinforce East Coast.

8 destroyers to be concentrated under a Captain D. at Rosyth for service as a Flotilla on East coast or as ordered by Adty. (C. in C. H.F. 2335/7 to R.A.D.)

8 modern destroyers including one leader to be sent to Harwich as soon as possible. To come under orders of C. in C. Nore (1st S.L. 2249/7 to C. in C.H.F.)

Your 2335/7. D.5 in KELLY, KIMBERLEY, KANDAHAR, JANUS, HYPERION, HEREWARD, HOSTILE, HAVOCK are detailed. (R.A.(D) H.F. 0125/8)

Narvik

Forces and Command

Following from Chiefs of Staff. With effect from your receipt of this message, all independent companies operating in Northern Norway come under your orders and will be maintained by you. No. 1 Company arrived at Mo on 4/5. Colonel Gubbins with No. 3 Company has sailed for Bodo, due 6/5, and will take over Scots Guards Company. Nos. 4 and 5 Companies have sailed for Mosjoen, due 6/5, and relieve French troops that place for evacuation to U.K. No. 2 Company with Administrative Group is due to sail about 10/5 for Bodo. Gubbins H.Q. will probably be at Bodo, from where he will establish direct W/T communications with you (1st S.L. to F.O. Narvik, 0027/7).

Flying Boat Crews

Air Ministry request your assistance in evacuation of crews of CABOT and CARIBOU and in providing Milson with money for expenses. (Hd. of M. to F.O. Narvik 0220/7).
Both flying boats and one Norwegian seaplane completely destroyed. All secret gear destroyed. Secret documents retained by R.A.F. officers. Am retiring with 2 of the 5 wounded, leaving sufficient officers and men to complete their work here. (VAN-SITTART, 0351/7).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik (Continued)

VINDICTIVE	Intend relieving PENELOPE as S.O. Skjel Fiord 1600/8 (VINDICTIVE 1330/7)
PENELOPE	Propose sailing 2200/8 or a.m./9 (PENELOPE 1926/7)
Bodo facilities	Ships can berth alongside in least depth 24 ft. 3 cranes are capable of lifting lorries. (C. in C. H.F. 1511/7 to NUBIAN, VETERAN)
Narvik float plane organisation	Your 1939/6. I hope all possible steps being taken to camouflage aircraft and that unless this camouflage is very successful base will be shifted frequently (C. in C.H.F. 1143/7)
Aircraft for Narvik	Trials show that Rocs on floats are unsuitable as fighters and it has been decided not to send them to Narvik. R.A.F. Gladiators and Hurricanes are being embarked in FURIOUS and GLORIOUS 10/5 and can arrive as follows if aerodrome is fit: Gladiators - 13/5 Hurricanes - 15/5 Therefore important to make Bardu Foss ready for both Gladiators and Hurricanes at earliest moment. Report when A.A. defences are in position on aerodrome. (1st S.L. 2356/7 to F.O. Narvik).
Operation Bishop	Roc aircraft will not now be included. (D.N.A.D. 2114/7 to C. in C.H.F.)
Bardu Foss aerodrome	Norwegian army squadrons wish to share it. Congestion most undesirable, fighters must have priority. Suggest Norwegian squadrons reform in England and concentrate at Alta and Porbanger (Adty. 1135/7).
West Fiord Patrol	Enemy evidently have intentions in that locality and I consider a patrol unnecessary there. If division of destroyers mentioned in your 1527/1 is not available suggest the 5 allotted to West Fiord area be increased to 7 and patrol could then be managed. (F.O. Narvik 1909/7 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik area (contd.)

A.A. Defence

Your 1926/4. Is CURLEW the A.A. ship referred to? If so, I presume she is meant for A.A. defence of Narvik area, not of ARK ROYAL. (F.O. Narvik 1151/7 to Adty.)

Reply. CURLEW is for A.A. duties with ARK ROYAL; CALCUTTA, CAIRO are now on way to Narvik area. (V.C.N.S. 2342/7)

STORK arrived Lavang Fiord (STORK 1930/7, F.O. Narvik 1015/7).

MARINA to sail from Clyde to Stornaway as soon as possible to embark A.A. guns and M.T. from BALZAC (See Casualties) for transport to Narvik. (Adty. 2115/7).

2 batteries each of 3 20-barrelled unrifled projectors (U.Ps.) available with Naval crews for close defence of landing places. Are you ready to receive (Adty. 1906/7 to F.O. Narvik).

CAIRO — Proceed to Lavang Fiord (F.O. Narvik 1401/7)

Landing at Mosjoen

Your 1939/6. As time is of great importance VETERAN, JUNO, ULSTER PRINCE to proceed to Mosjoen without calling at Skjel Fiord. To approach coast at time when enemy air activity is likely to be least. (V.C.N.S. 1201/7 to C. in C.H.F., F.O. Narvik 1429/7).

Please instruct VETERAN if opposed landing is to be attempted. (C. in C.H.F. 1515/7).
Your 1940/6. Coastal steamers are interfered with and enemy intelligence good. Consider destroyers should be used. (N.O. Narvik 2152/7).

M.L.C's. Horse boats.

3 more M.L.C's will be available mid May. Would up to 10 horse boats be useful. (D. of L.D. 2110/7)

Minefields

Proposing deep minefield between Barvy and Lodingen instead of shallow minefields proposed at Baroy and Ratver. Re. controlled minefields. (V.C.N.S. 2124/7 to R.A. Narvik)

Coast Defence Guns

One 6th battery, one 4.7" battery, 4 - 12 pdrs., 8 D.E.Ls. being sent in SS. MASHOBRA, with 4 - 4" Naval Q.F. in reserve (with no crews). Re. siting of defences. (V.C.N.S. 2124/7 to R.A. Narvik)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Convoy FS 3 — **Narvik Area** (continued)

Convoy FS 3 arrived 1600/6 (F.O. Narvik 1911/7)

NS and NP Convoys — Next 4 sailings, provisional programme. (D.O.D. (H) 1634/7)

Independent Companies — operating in Northern Norway come under orders of F.O. Narvik from 7/5 and will be maintained by him. Col. Gubbins remains in command. (Adty. 1404/7)

Iceland - Operation Fork.

Defence of cable landing. — It is not possible for the R.M. Battalion to establish a small force at the fiord where the cables are landed. (M.S.M.)

Army to relieve R.M. — The War Office are prepared to relieve the Marines by a Brigade as soon as the latter can be moved. To be effected as soon as possible. (M.S.M.)

It has been represented to me by CS 1 that directly enemy hear of our landing in Iceland they may send small forces by trawlers or submarines to occupy fiords on Eastern side notably for instance Seidis Fiord where telegraph cables land. It is therefore recommended that one cruiser and one destroyer of Force Fork should proceed to Seidis Fiord directly main landing at Reyjavik is completed and land a party of marines with two 2 pounder guns at Budareyri Strand chart 3330. One Walrus to be left at Seidis Fiord.

In the meantime I will order V.A.N.P. to give orders to the ship occupying N P 51 to be particularly careful to examine all trawlers etc. in vicinity of Eastern Fiords and will also send 2 or 3 Northern Patrol trawlers up there. (C. in C.H.F. 1343/7 to Adty., 1615/7 to V.A.N.P.)

WAR DIARY

7.5.40
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS.
Iceland (operation Pork)

Rendezvous with H.M.S.CALIFORNIA in position 065° 16' North 012° 56' West at 0400 Thursday 9th May. Act under her orders. Object examine all trawlers in vicinity of Eastern Fiords of Iceland in view of possible activity of enemy small craft. Repeat back rendezvous. (FOCNA 1922/7 to KINGSTON JACINTH, NORTHERN DUKE, KINGSTON PERIDOT, am leaving patrol 0400/8 (KINGSTON PERIDOT 2149/7).

Allied Submarines.

Positions. 0600/8 and movements for 24 hours (VAS 1812/7,D.C.2131/7)

SNAPPER 2230/3 sighted 4 T.B.D's 57°13'N7°25'E Course 025o high speed, 1530/6 unsuccessfuly attacked by 2 torpedoes in glassy calm sea single m.v. 3000 tons screened by A/C's and 1 T.B.D. (SNAPPER 0020/7).

Holland and Belgium (ARETHUSA, GALATEA)

Sweep by French warships off Belgian and Dutch coast as in V.A.Dover's 1827/3 to be carried out between 1430/7 and pm/8 (V.A.Dover 1155/7,by UNISION (French Destroyer) (VA(S) 2311/7).

FLORENTINO, BORODINO, PACIFICO, ATLANTIC, GUIDE, TRANSEAS — Keep steam at 12 hours notice. (D.C.2211/7.)

Operation X.D. — Naval parties and R.E.detachments to be at 2 hours' notice from 0800/8 (DOD(H)2317/7)

Enemy troop movements. — Possibility exists of enemy troop movements by sea along Dutch coast. S/M's referred to in my 1806/6 (1908/6 intended) keep to eastern end of their area (RA(S) 2309/7)

Troop Convoys etc.

MONARCH OF BERMUDA, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, VILLE D'ALGER — escorted by FAULKNOR,AMAZON, IMOGEN for Scapa. Only one destroyer has effective A/S. Asking for 2 more A/S vessels to reinforce. (Capt.(D) 8.1803/7, 2004/7)

Convoy HK one — To keep not less than 150 miles from coast of Norway until further orders(FO Narvik 1616/7)

WAR DIARY

7.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS
Air.

British Air Activity.

Patrols	Certain patrols and tasks cancelled owing to weather (C in C. Rosyth 0726/7, 1110/7)
Operations for night 7/8 May	Attack on Stavanger Aerodrome (Air Min.1300/7).
Proposed attack on Trondheim	See mining.
Attack on Bergen	8 Skuas of 806 Sqn. to leave Hatston 0500/8 to bomb objectives at Bergen. Request 18 Groups provided defensive patrol of Blenheims over Skuas during attack. Objectives: transports, supply ships, and enemy warships sighted. Each Skua will carry one 500 lb.bomb (A.C.O.S. 1620/7). Asking for bombing attack on objectives in Bergen as early as possible (C in C H.F.1147/7).
Proposed attack on Trondheim	Re C in C H.F.1101/6 paragraph 5. C in C is under misapprehension. My Blenheims are long range fighters, not bombers. Trondheim is outside Blenheims radius of action from Hatston (C in C H Q C C 2010/7)
Air Searches	For 8/5 (includes reconnaissance of Norwegian coast from Bergen to Lister and from Bergen to 61°N (C in C Rosyth 1920/7)
Attack on cruiser	At 0446/7 a vessel was bombed in 53° 42' N 7°7'E (near Juist), And at 0450/7 a vessel was attacked in 53°45' N 7° 0'E, no hits obtained in either case. At 0459/7 a patch of oil and wreckage was seen in 53°40' N 6°41'E (near Borkum) (A C H Q Chatham 1007/7, I.C.O.444/40)

Enemy Air Activity.

See situation report. In addition, a somewhat unusual flight was made by one enemy A/C in the late afternoon, on a course from Dover to Flamborough Head about 30 miles from the coast. It is assumed that this was a shipping reconnaissance flight, but no attacks on shipping are reported (I C O444/40)

WAR DIARY. 7.5.1940.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HOME COMMANDS.

WALKURE. My 2302/6. German ship loading phosphates at Murmansk is WALKURE (4251 tons) (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1016/7.

VOGESSEN. Adding to my 1335/6. Press reports VOGESSEN with coal for Oslo mined 4 miles S.W. of Wingar 0600/5 (A.N.A. Stockholm 1201/7)

Four Swedish trawlers sunk and one enemy steamer damaged by mines off Vingar this morning (Mr. Mallet (Stockholm) No.1494 7/5 for D.N.I. from Malmo).

MEDITERRANEAN.

MARITZA. Arrived Sibenik, Yugoslavia 7/5 to load with bauxite for Trieste, according to a French report (I.C.0443/40).

CHINA.

SABANG. Reattached. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0806 2/7)
SURABAYA. Draught (do).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/M's Reported.

One about 74 miles E. of Muckle Flugga 2243/6 is probably homeward bound. The report of one in the approaches to the Clyde has not been confirmed (D.D.I.C.1132/7).

1910. See Enemy Intelligence.

1155. Periscope reported by M/S QUEEN OF THANET in 56°7'N., 2°28'W. (I.C.0444/40).

1130. S/M reported from shore in 56°50'N., 2°17'W. (Off Gourdon) Not confirmed by C.G. (I.C.0444/40.

0500. French Admiralty report S/M 51°45'N., 2°45'E., course N. (I.C.0444/40).

WAR DIARY. 7.5.1940.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/M's Attacked.

1829. VALENTINE attacked contact in 56°14'N., 2°28'W., (I.C.04414/40)

WAR DIARY.

7.5.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Positions. Convoys and Patrols, noon 7/5 (D.C. 0028/7)

Ocean Convoys. Positions, etc. (D.C.1350/7)

Sabotage at Gibraltar. Report that 5 men left Spezzia in a s/m with markings painted out. Will attempt to enter Gib. from Spain to study methods of Sabotage (N.A. Rome 1152/7)

South Atlantic.

Trawlers building. Asking whether Brazil will provide steel. Export of steel from U.K. presents difficulties (D.S.V.P.1304/7).

Oil fuel at Lobito. 1,300 tons in stock but ships cannot be supplied for some time owing to incomplete pipe line and no pump machinery. Up to 270 tons could be supplied in drums but very slowly. (S.C. (I) Cape Town 1210/7).

America and West Indies.

Convoy HX43. Position and route (D.T.D.1706/7)

Mediterranean.

Italian Cable Ship. Will be working between Sicily and Malta early in May (D.N.I.1644/7).

NAVAL STATIONS.
(Continued).

East Indies.

Opening of Mediterranean. All British Merchant Ships which left Basra for United Kingdom via the Cape on or after 30th April, are to proceed to Aden for orders. (C.T.D. 0059/8).

Danish Ships. Situation regarding Danish ships in Colombo is not altogether satisfactory and unless certain steps are taken harmonious working cannot be ensured when transfer of flag is completed. Details (C.in C. E.I. 1542Z/4).

C.in C. E.I. Your 1236/C. Your intentions are concurred in. Provision of 4 destroyers for C.S. 3 must be subject to review by Commander in Chief, Mediterranean nearer the time of the operation. Presume you will consider repetition of air escort on lines of that given to C.S.2. (D.C.D.(F)1905/7 to C. in C. E.I.).

Contraband Control. Ships bound via Suez Canal for Spanish Mediterranean ports to be controlled at Aden or Port Said those for Spanish Atlantic or Portuguese ports at Gibraltar.
Eastbound vessels for Spanish Mediterranean ports from Holland or Belgium to be detained Gibraltar until released by N.E.S.
(D.E.S.D. 2100/7).

China.

German Claims. The Germans claim to have sunk battleships, cruisers, etc. recently. Requesting in future detailed denials may be communicated as soon as possible. Unfortunate effect in Japan. (N.A. Tokyo 1256/7)

Danish Ships. Re Maersk Line ships (C.O.Is Far East 0509/7)

War Diaries

28-12-39 — 7-3-40

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War Diaries 27-12-39 Thru 7-3-40	

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